シマシマ

山崎紗也夏

1

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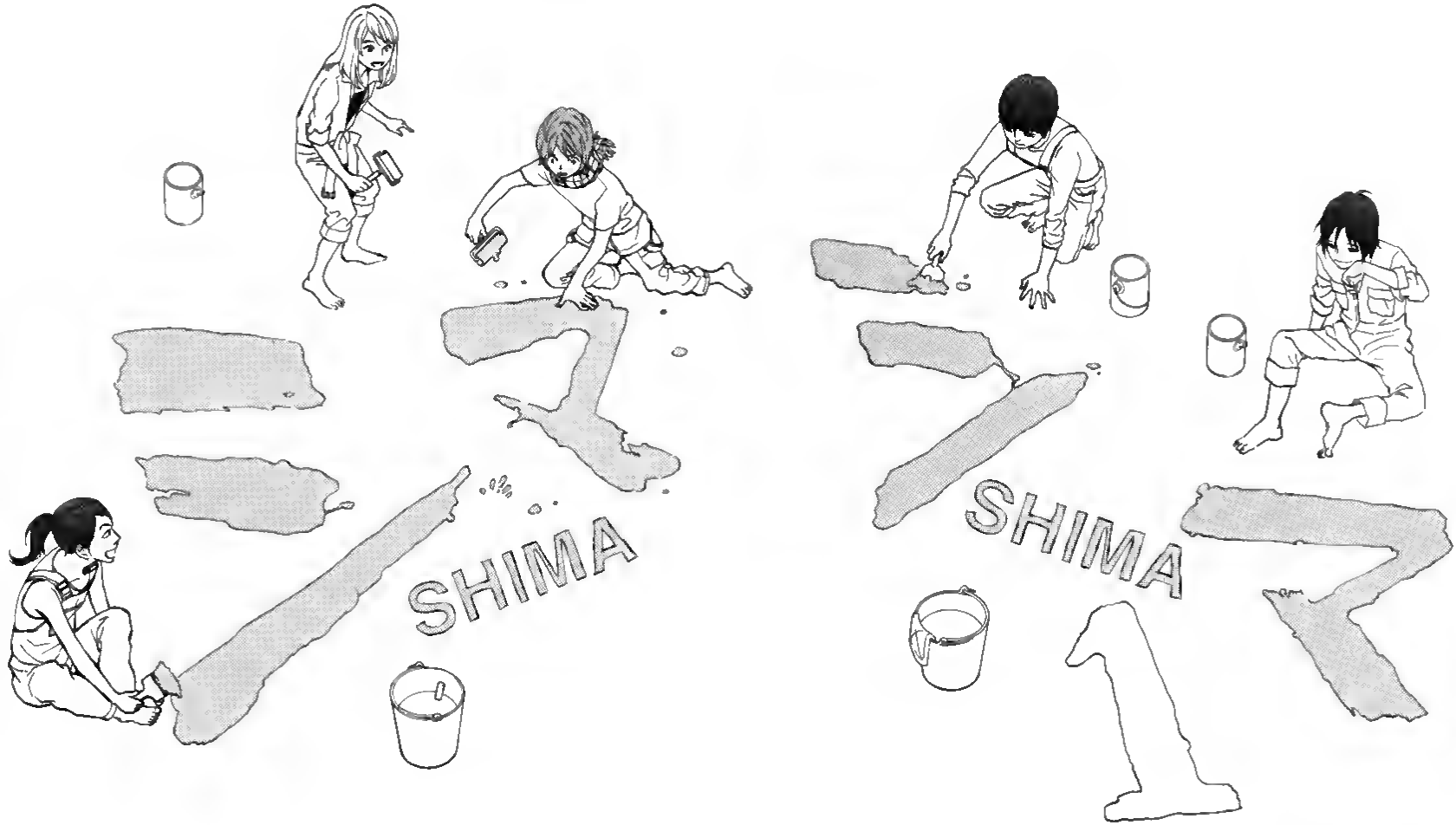
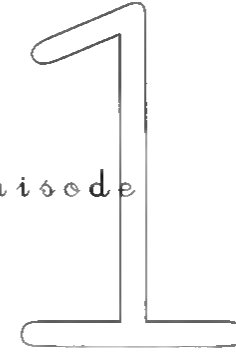
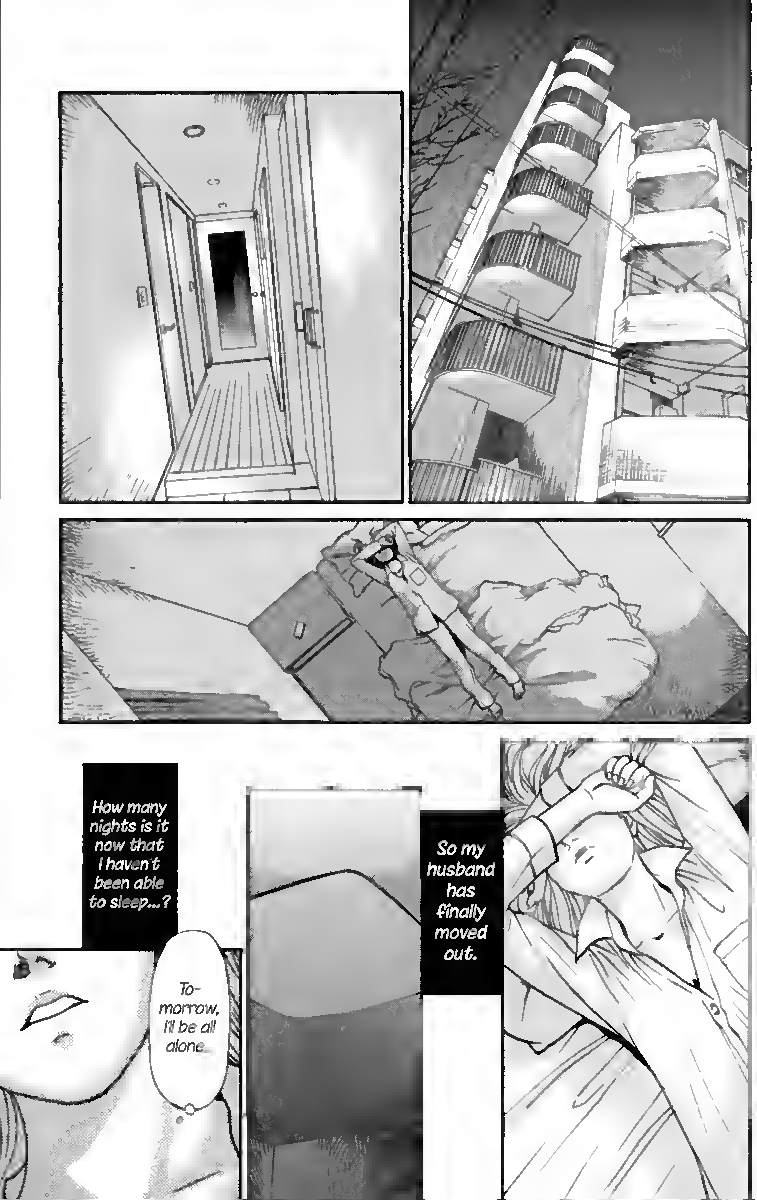

SHIMA
SHIMA

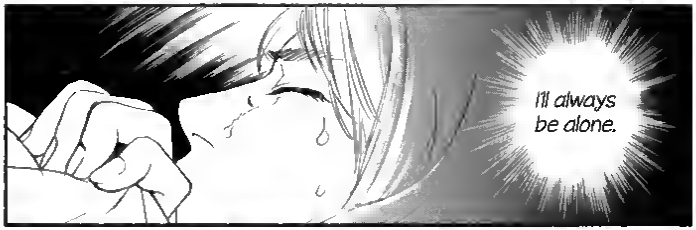
First episode

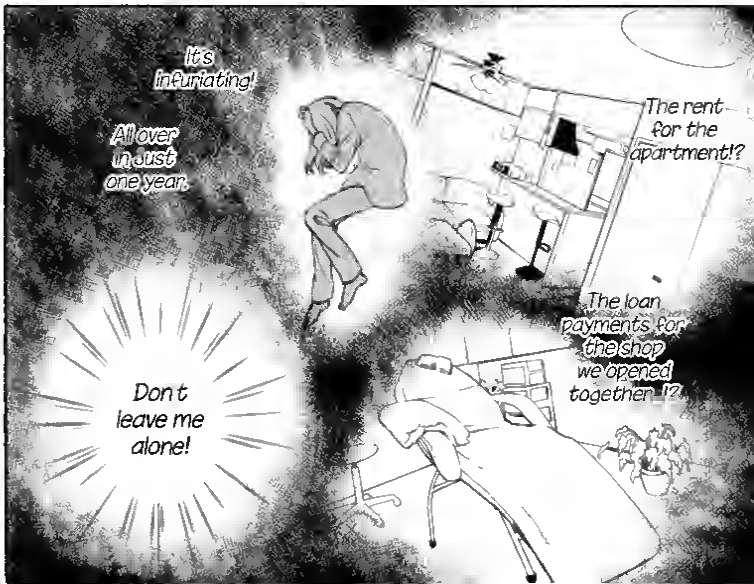


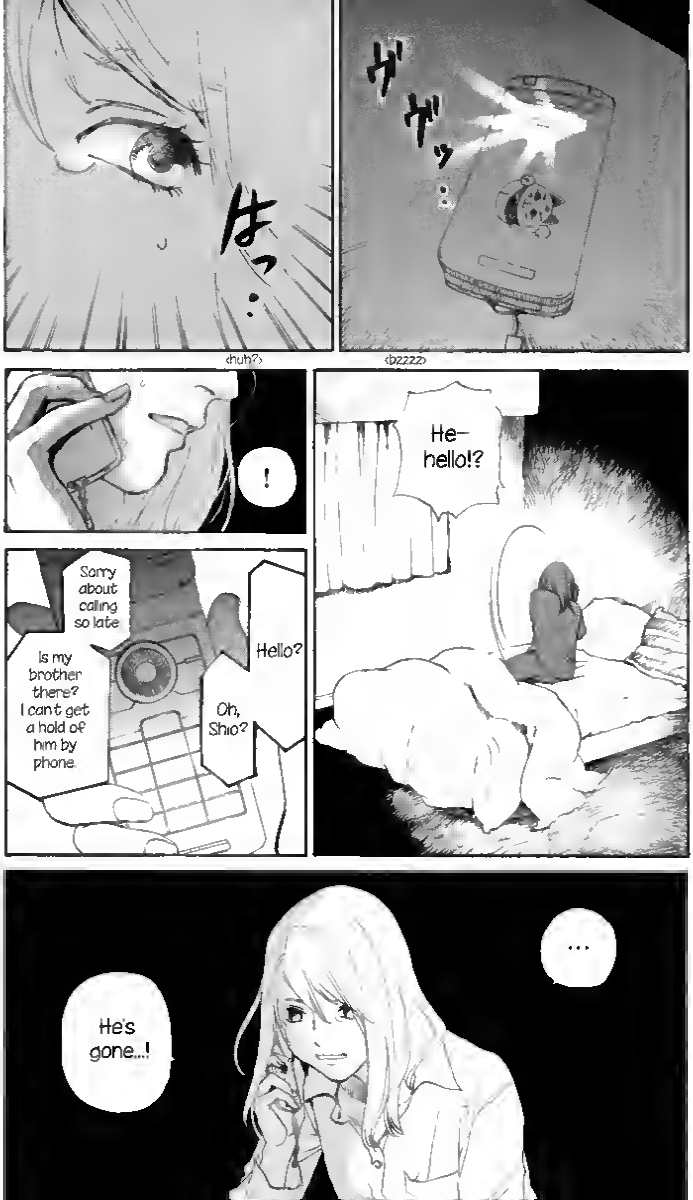

So my husband has finally moved out.
How many nights is it now that I haven't been able to sleep...?
To-morrow, I'll be all alone...

Alone...!

Alone...
...back to me!
All alone...
From now on...
It's scary.


I'll always be alone.


It's infuriating!
All over in just one year.
The rent for the apartment!?
The loan payments for the shop we opened together!?
Don't leave me alone!


はっ・・・
(huh?)
ヴヴッ・・・
(bzzzz)
!
Hello?
Sorry about calling so late.
Is my brother there? I can't get a hold of him by phone.
Oh, Shio?
He-
hello!?
...
He's gone...!

He's gone!
Huh?
Hello?
Left with some other woman!
Wha? What? Seriously?
Are you all right, Shio?

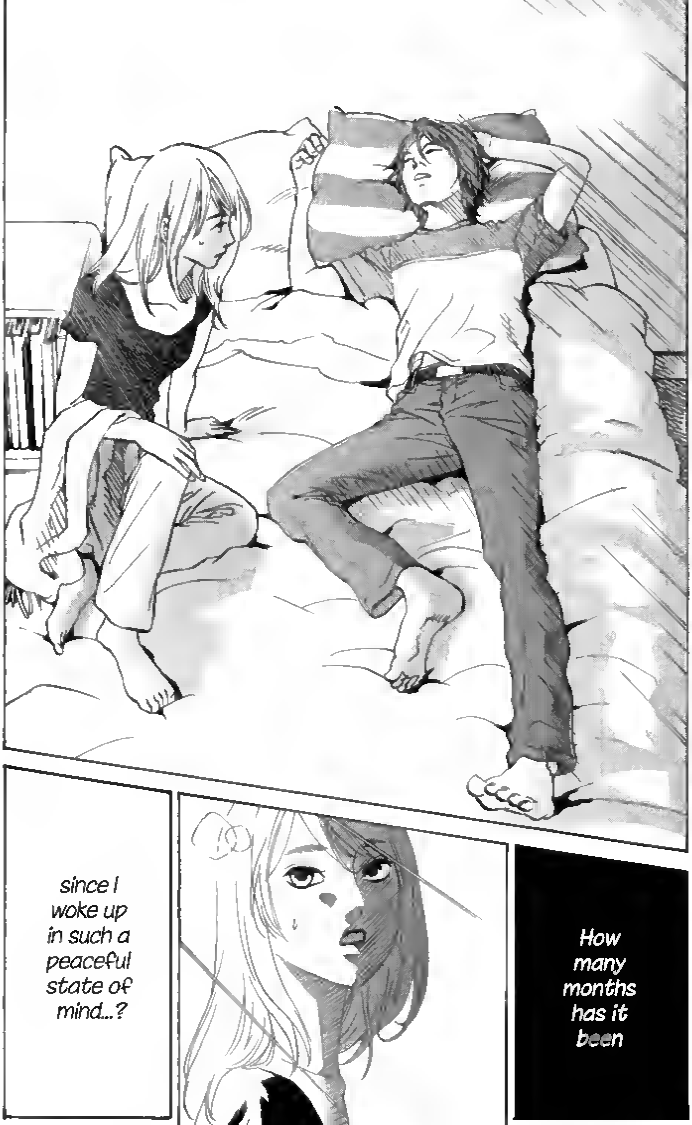
You're his little brother why don't you do something about it?
No, I am not all right!!

Arrrghhhh
No more!
Some-body

(twitch)
This comforting feeling..
The breadth of a man's chest
This is really nice.
Ahhhh
is so soothing
—Uh...

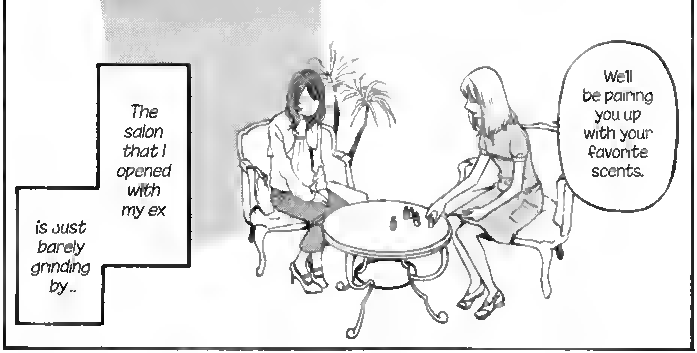
Who is this!?
Laying on the pillow of my womanizing husband
...is his brother!?
カッ

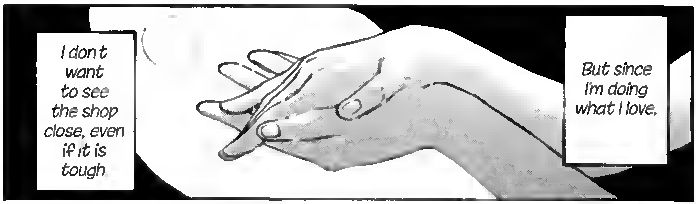
Still wearing it!
<ah..>
<stretch>
They're on!
<slip>
<sigh>
Safe...
MMM
Shio...?
Did you...
sleep ... well?


How many months has it been
since I woke up in such a peaceful state of mind...?

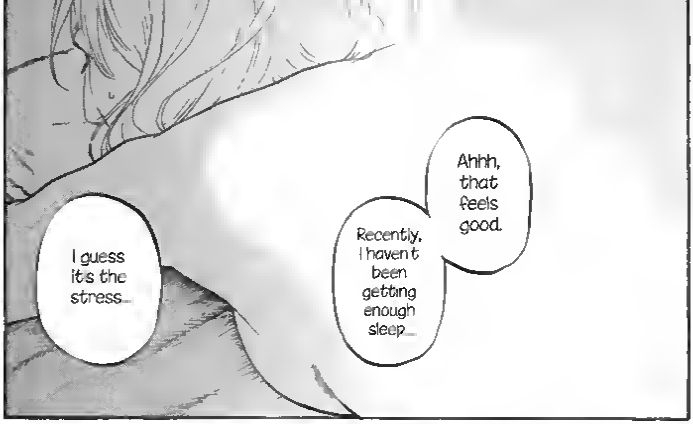
Aroma Spa
Green
ONE YEAR LATER
Today's appointments... uhh...
None in the morning.
Two in the afternoon
Boss.

Perhaps the customers would like those oxygen capsules better?
I know...
Or maybe they want that coffee house feel.
If we do that, we might double our customer count.
I don't have a reservation...
That's fine. Please come in.
¥5,000,000
I really want to do one of those...
But I don't have enough cash on hand.
Excuse me...

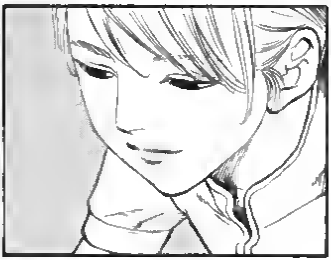

The salon that I opened with my ex is just barely grinding by..
We'll be pairing you up with your favorite scents.


I don't want to see the shop close, even if it is tough.
But since I'm doing what I love.

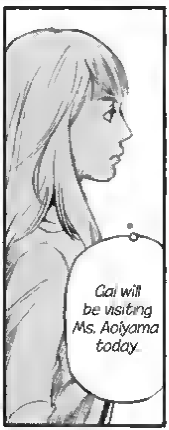
This is extract of geranium and lemon It'll improve your metabolism
At this time of the year, there's a lot of pollen floating about.
This will help clean out your sinuses too.


I guess it's the stress...
Recently, I haven't been getting enough sleep...
Ahhh, that feels good.

They keep waking me up at awful hours for consultations.



The sun is starting to set...

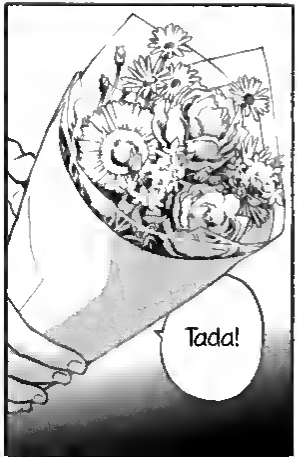

Cai will be visiting Ms. Aoiyama today.

Today, the client rescheduled for 8PM
Contact me when you get there
Shio
Seriously...
I think I'm doing well... For me..

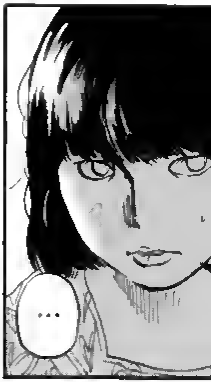
(sigh)
ふぅ…
(din-) (don-)
ピンポーン!
But what if it turns bad...
That woman told me not to worry..
!
Is he really going to come?
It's at 8.

Yes...?
Im Gai, from Striped Sheep
ガチャ…
Calm down!
He wouldn't try to do anything bad.
I'm unlocking the door now
Doesn't look like a shady guy...

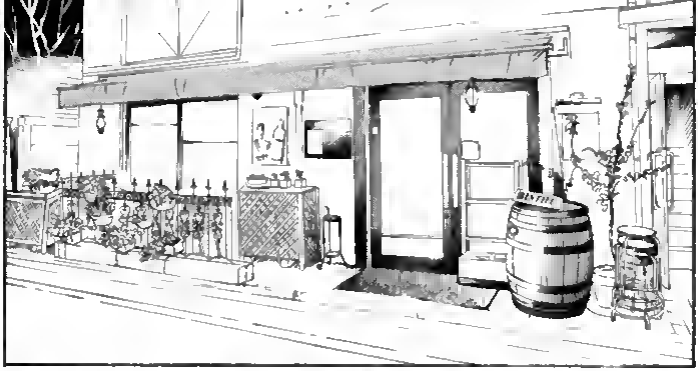
Good evening!

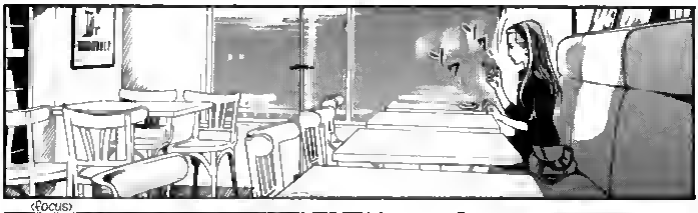

Tada!

An ordinary boy
Can I really trust him...?
Mishe

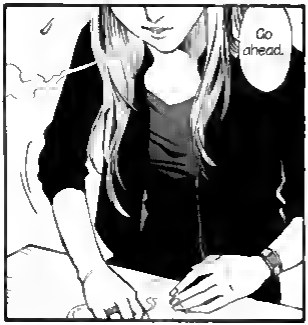

...

I..
See
Uhmm
I passed by a cute flower shop on the way here so I bought these.
Please...
Smells nice...
Please... come in.
Thank you very much.
バタン
<clunk>





(Focus)



The usual, please
She looks calm
and seems composed.
So you found out about us through our homepage..?
I'm the rep, Shio
It's natural that she would be cautious...
But

We want to avoid any trouble even more than she does.
Allow me to briefly explain our system
For that reason,
I'm going to the washroom for a bit.
This person looks acceptable
I'm so glad.
I need to meet with them in person
I feel so much more assured when I see that you're a woman.

Got it.
I just arrived
★ Gai ★
Gai's client today...
An office worker 31 years of age
Hasn't had a boyfriend for 5 years.
Seems a little nervous, but also like a very kind person,
and doesn't like to talk.
I'm counting on you, Gai.
Ohhh

Ummm
You really love these plushies.
I'm 21, a student
Me?
How... old... are you?
Yeah... I guess.
Aiko are you an office worker?
Ahh, thanks for the food!
I thought he was a bit of a kid
So 10 years younger...

He s very neat with his food.
.....
Talks too much...
....
think that's true?
So don't you
Yeah?
Ummm... I..
I cant sleep...
So...
カタ?
(clack)

スクッ
Right away!

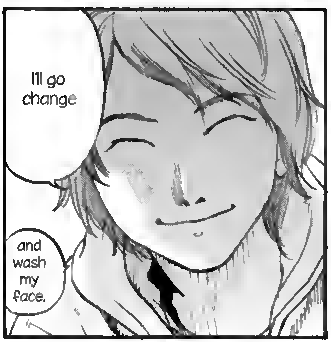
ひょ
いっ

Not at all. Very light
Eeek!
I'm heavy!

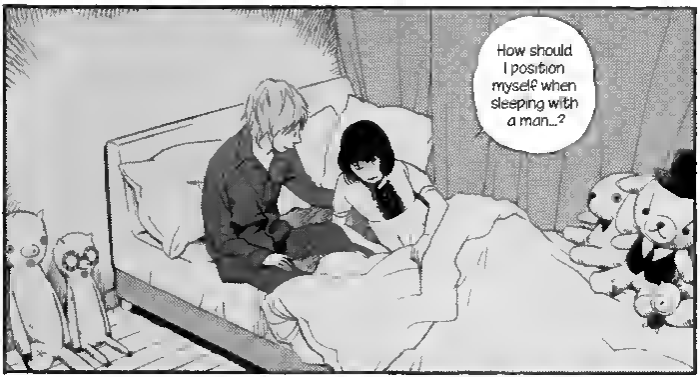
(poof)

ふ
わっ

That was a shock.


I'll go change
and wash my face.

It's not like I think that what all the women of the World actually want is to get it on all the time.


How should I position myself when sleeping with a man...?

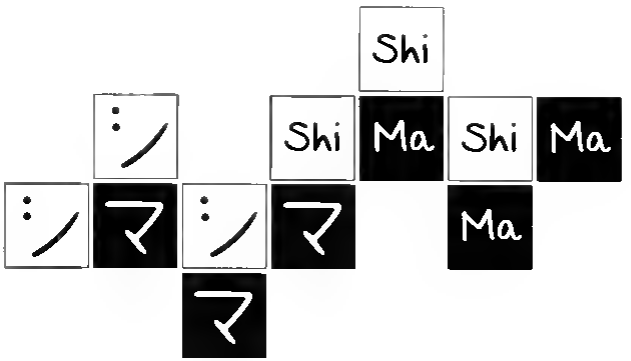
You can rest your arms and legs on me if you'd like.

This feels so good..
Ahh, this is it..

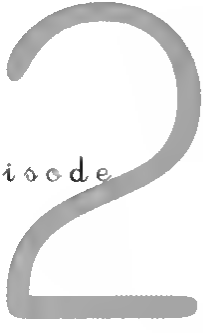
They just want a man to lay beside in the night...
This boy, he's warm...
Firm and gentle...
And what's that nice smell...?
...
Heart-beats.

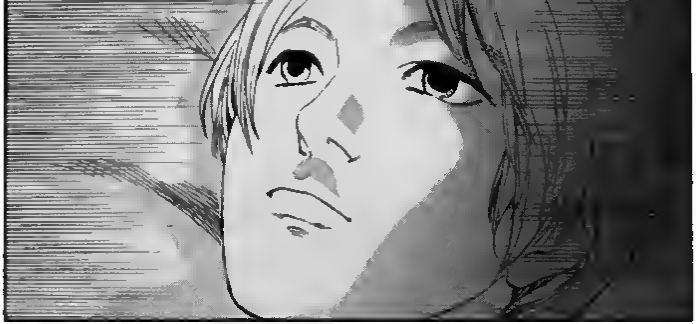
My other job is
providing quality sleep of the highest order.

(chirp chirp chirp)
あぶ…
CRACK
It is also the reason why I can't sleep.


Shi
Shi
Ma
Shi
Ma
Ma

Second episode

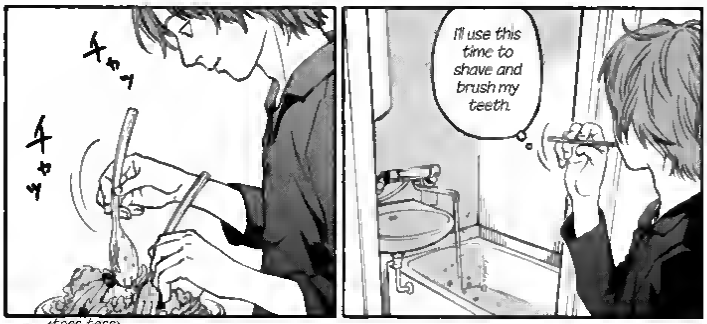




<slide>

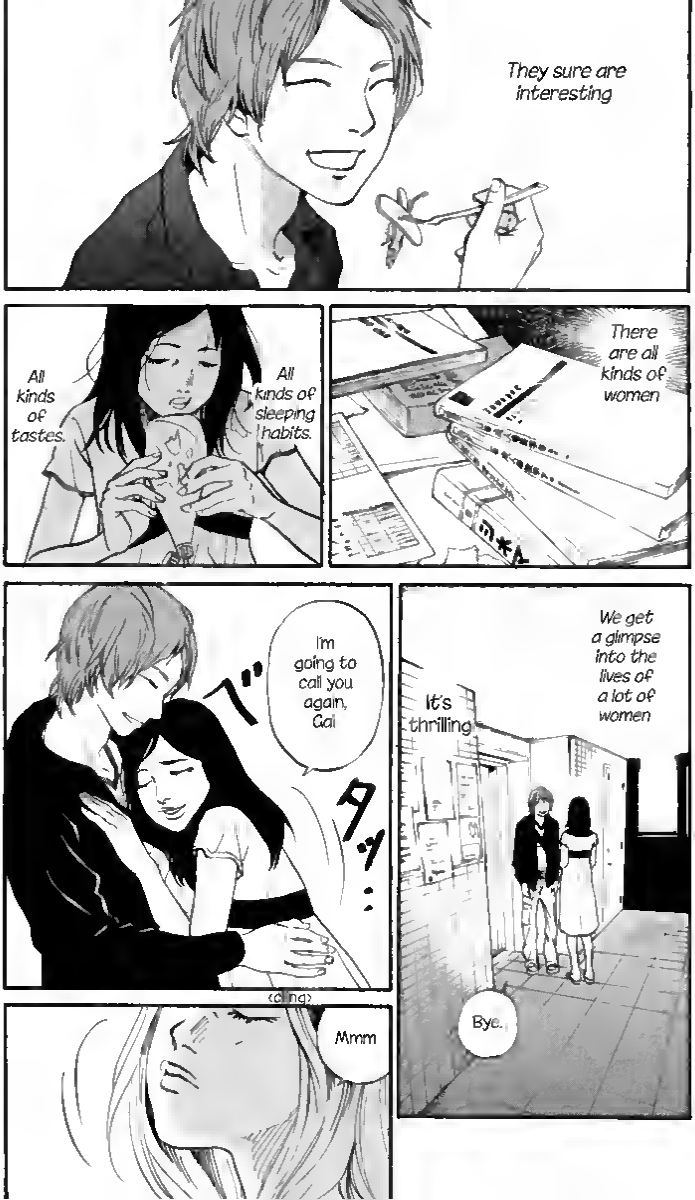
Women, they...
sure have a lot of clothes...

a full salad for breakfast
And hot water ready in the tub
She wanted coffee and
After getting up, there are still some things left to do


I'll use this time to shave and brush my teeth.

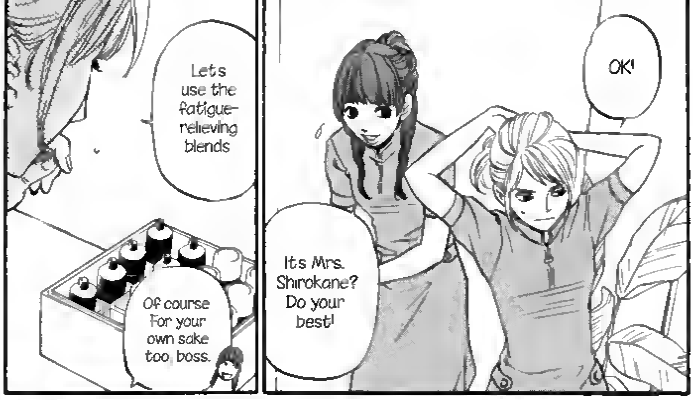
Mmm
Rise and Shine!

...
Mornin
Take your time prepping. Im getting breakfast ready
(yaawn)
When we wake them up, we don't open the curtains. Most women don't like being seen with their bed head and without make up on.
I slept sooo well...
I haven't had a good dream in a long time
This coffee is delicious...
That's good.


They sure are interesting
All kinds of tastes.
All kinds of sleeping habits.
There are all kinds of women
I'm going to call you again, Gai
We get a glimpse into the lives of a lot of women
It's thrilling
Bye.
<ding>
Mmm

Kiss
!
DANG
Whenever you can't sleep, please do!
When she reached up for a kiss at the end there.
Ok! Off to class!
I cleared the last hurdle with ease!

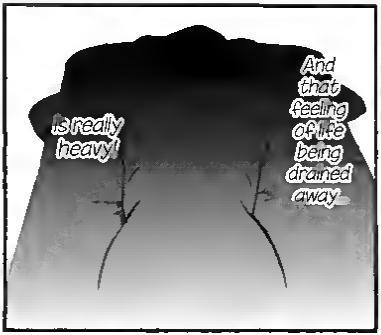
We've been expecting you, Mrs. Shirokane
Please take care of me today
Ahh, Shio! It's been a while

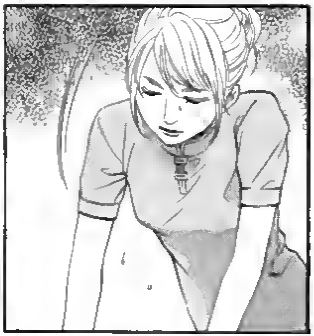

Let's use the fatigue-relieving blends
Of course. For your own sake too, boss.
OK!
It's Mrs. Shirokane? Do your best!

Juniper berries
Stress relief
Antioxidants
Mental acuity

In the massage business,
"you sure have it easy" But you know
my mother-in-law keeps saying,
And then,

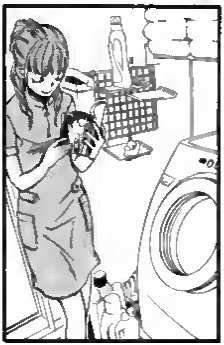
there are some that will suck the energy right out of us.
among the customers we get,


is really heavy!
And that feeling of life being drained away...

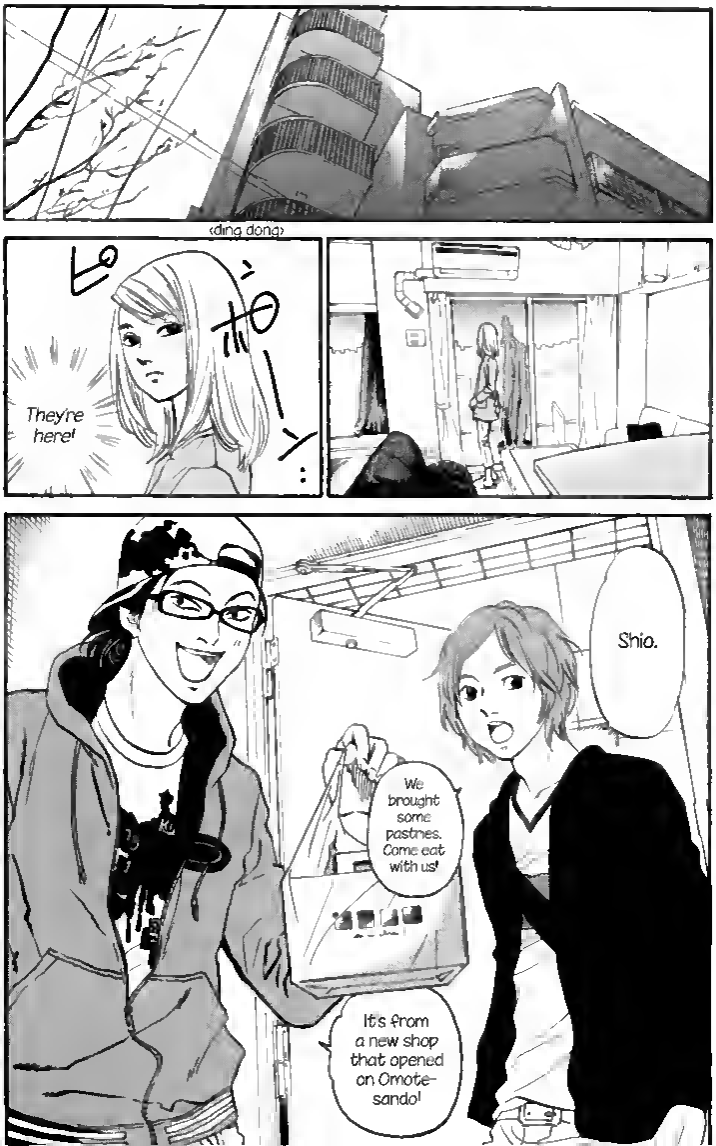


I'm finished...

カチカ
Good work.



A fatigue that renders us unable to work for a while.
On the other hand, there are customers that boost our energy.
I wonder if my life force really is being...?
I hope they're holding up all right.
Touching other people for a living is is one strange occupation.


(ding dong)
They're here!
Shio.
We brought some pastries. Come eat with us!
It's from a new shop that opened on Omotesando!

But I didn't find anything I liked.
Rinda said he wanted to look at some clothes, so I went along
Wow it looks delicious.
Did you two come together?
Yeah
Are you boys dating, or what...?
Ahh, Shio, could I have a strawberry one?
キャピ
You should have bought that blue shirt
That yellow polo would have looked nice on you, Gai
キャピ
Mashu is with me, too
Hey all.
Ahh, Ran. Come on in!

the members of Striped Sheep, my night job.
These four boys,
They would probably be classed as hunks of some sort, out in the world.

Makoto Shuuji, 20
"Mashu"
A taciturn scholar.

Futaba Ran, 22
"Ran"
The man who brings the four together.

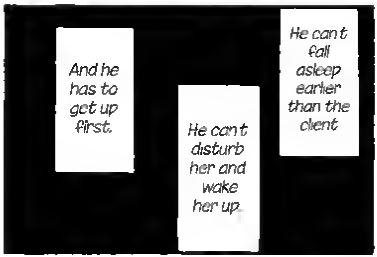
Hayashida Rindou, 21
"Rinda"
Fast to anger, but has the heart of a girl.

Tamaluki Gai, 21
"Gai"
Jack of all trades, master of none is the motto.

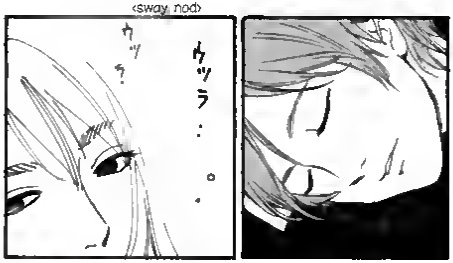
Ummm, here...
Payday
YESSH!!
With this I can buy the STIFF bag I reserved!
Ran, can you handle Ms. Sengawa at 9 today?
No problem!
Gai, you have it good, staying with the parents.
No rent or anything.
How about you, Mashu?
I'll buy some books.

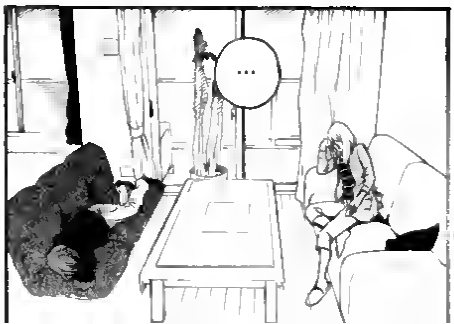
What's her info?
Ummm... Well,
25 years old.
In fashion
I'm counting on you.
Wants someone who can drink.
DRINK UP
Guess Cai's out, then. Ha ha.
Ahh he's asleep.
Cai?
He had work today.
Let him sleep.
Maybe I should be off to bed, too.

すぅ
すぅ...


He can't fall asleep earlier than the client
He can't disturb her and wake her up.
And he has to get up first.

He's sound asleep
Because he can't rest easy when he's working..


<sway, nod>
カッ?
カッラ:。


...

It's unexpectedly hard work.

Ohh?

Seems you're busy with quite a bit of stuff Uniko

(depressing)

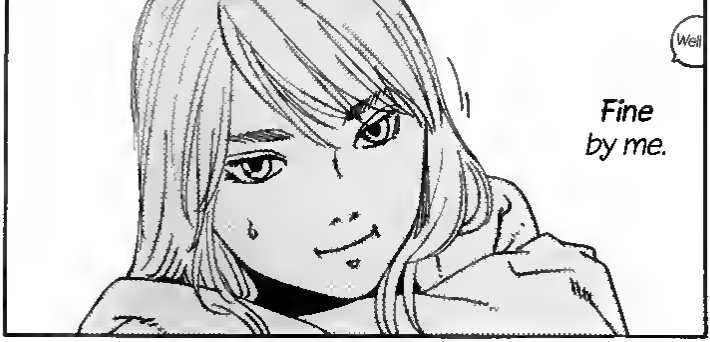
どよお
But, argh What I'm sick of..
Is being abused as an actress...
おん
It's tiring...

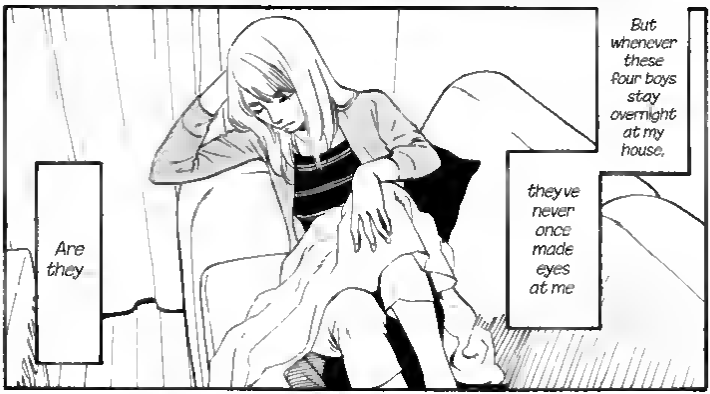
ふっ

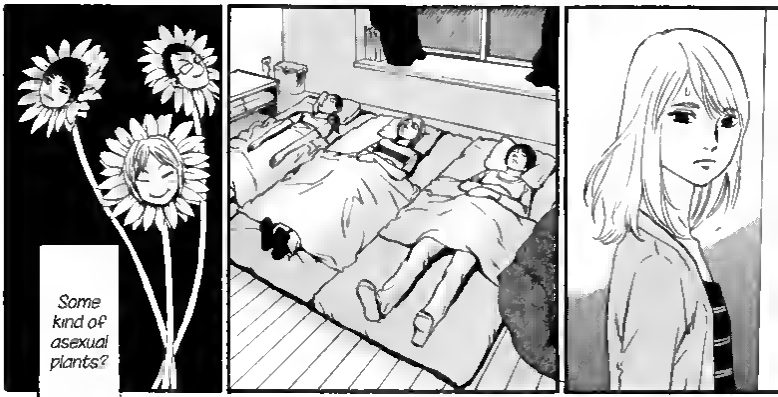
Then I have to do an adult v'deo
It's not like I hate it or anything

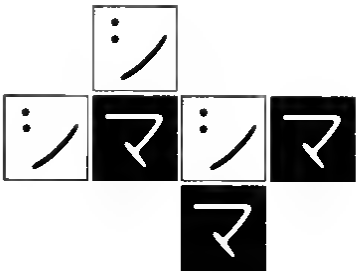
Hey, Im talking here
Aren't you going to listen!?
Im going to make us some drinks, so we can keep talking.
MILK
Want some kind of snack with it?
So, they're pros at
EHH...
HES GOOD
deflecting any romantic advances of their clients...?

!
ギシ…
Cat and the guys...?
They're asleep?
I started faking sleep before I knew it...
…!
He's close...!
Wha—
?
(rustle)
イアサ。
!?

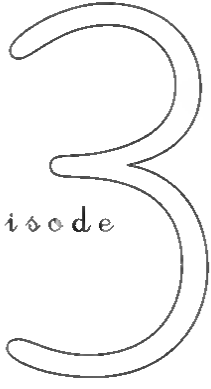

Well
Fine by me.


But whenever these four boys stay overnight at my house,
they've never once made eyes at me
Are they

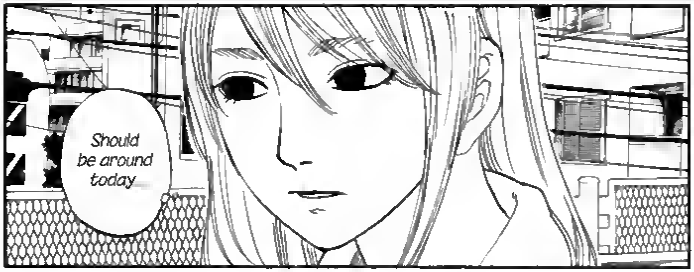

Some kind of asexual plants?

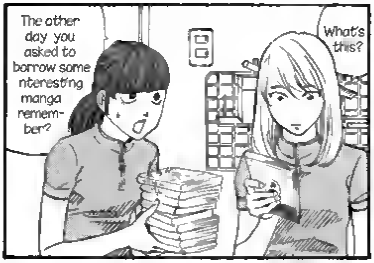


Third episode

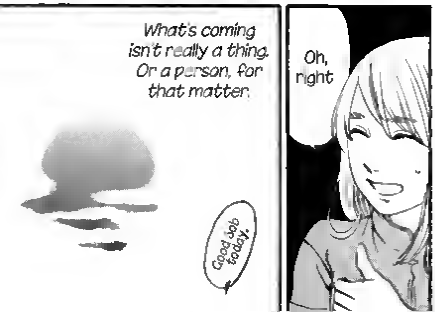


It's coming soon...


Should be around today...

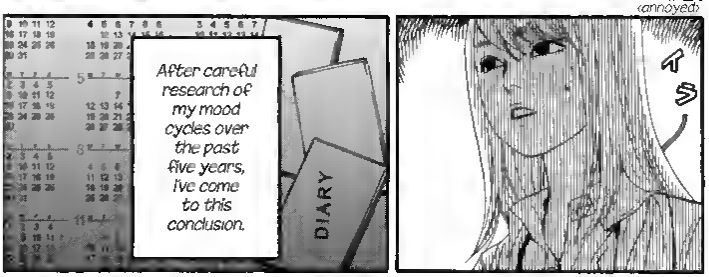

The other day you asked to borrow some interesting manga remember?
What's this?

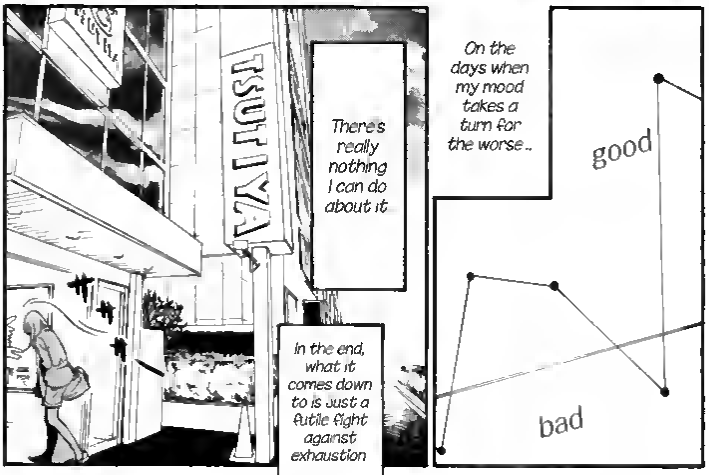
Boss!
Here are my recommendations!


What's coming isn't really a thing. Or a person, for that matter.
Oh, right
Good job today.

I have
a reli-
able
grasp
of my
"down"
periods.
It's here!

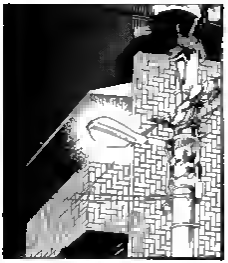
Sadness
Leth-
argy
Apa-
thy
Imita
tion


After careful research of my mood cycles over the past five years, ive come to this conclusion.
DIARY
<annoyed>
TSS

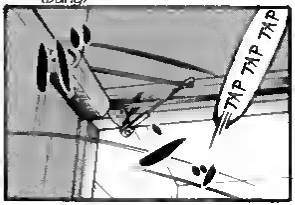

FRUITS
There's really nothing I can do about it
In the end, what it comes down to is just a futile fight against exhaustion
On the days when my mood takes a turn for the worse..
good
bad

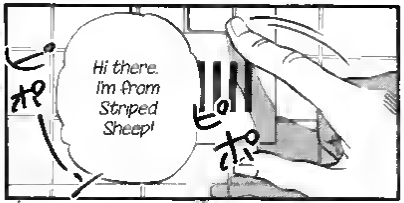
I haven't promised anyone to go out for a drink.
None of those interviews to do, either
The apartment's clean.
I have to prepare..
I'll drop by the bookstore and buy some kind of fitness magazine...
I have drinks and snacks already...
おお
おお
All right
ピロリン
I'm heading over to Yayoi's today as scheduled
♡Rinda
With that, I shouldn't need to worry about anyone else trying to contact me today

TORRES
Sangre de Toro
Today's blend:
Orange Sweet
Bergamot Marjoram
(counteracts lethargy)
Today is devoted to taking care of myself.

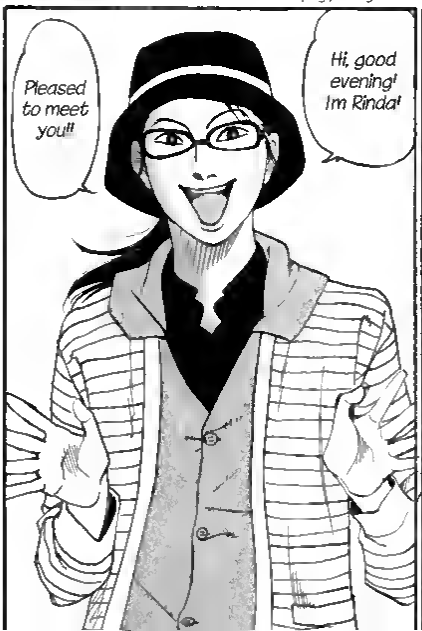


(bang)



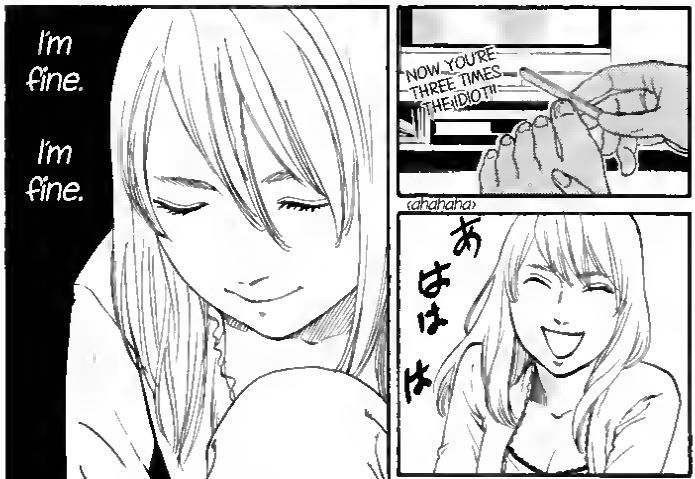


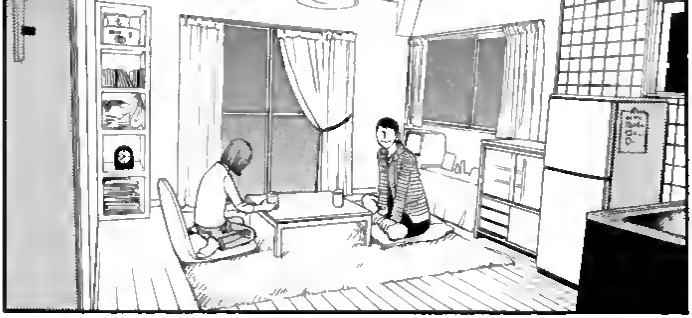
(ping pooong) (ping pong)



‹glug glug glug glug›

Wonder which one I should start with...?
ぶは!!
カ
ン
(slam)
(duhah)
OK


I'm fine.
I'm fine.
"NOW YOU'RE THREE TIMES THE IDIOT!"
(ahahaha)
あはは

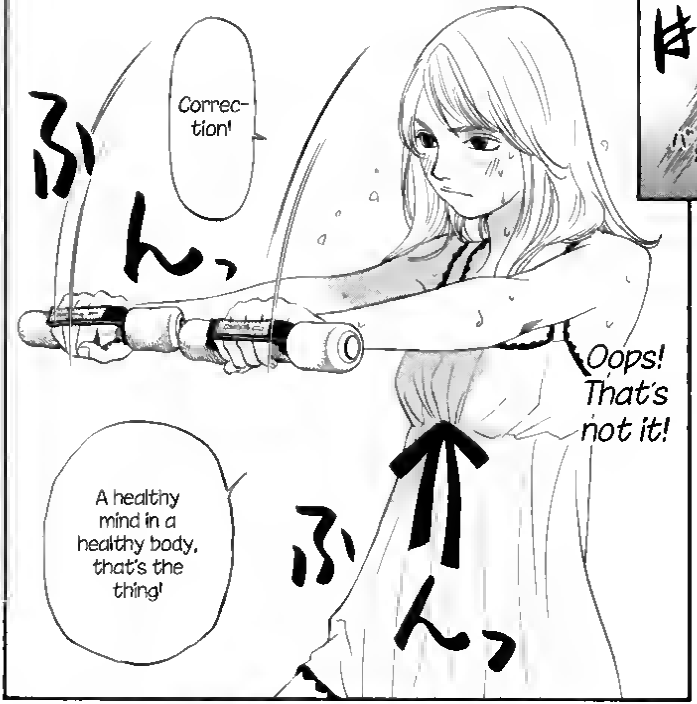


So you work at a bank?
That bank has much cuter uniforms than the others.

You know all about it, then?
Well... I look pretty plain no matter what I wear though...
Huh?
That can't be!
For instance, I think red should look really good on you.

He's quite pushy in everything he does...
How about trying on my scarf for a bit?
I've dabbled in color coordinating wardrobes before
What are you talking about?
See? It's great on you!
I know! If you don't mind...
The truth is, I just loooove clothes.

But it'll be hard to keep those 2 minutes up
It really doesn't look very enjoyable
And there's a diet involved, too ...
<mutter mutter>
In just two weeks
Shrink your waistline 7cm!
Only 2 minutes each day!
He never lifted one finger to keep his body in shape.
It was terrible for my figure, but it had its joys.
Don't be stupid, we have to get up early tomorrow
Give me one more, on the rocks.
I'm just fine Don't go home yet Shio
And now I'm drinking alone...


Correc-tion!
ふんっ
Oops! That's not it!
A healthy mind in a healthy body, that's the thing!
ふんっ
はっ
バタタタ

You're sure this doesn't look weird..?

This is pretty effective..
Ouch, this..

You were probably told to buy this by someone else, and then you didn't think it looked good on you, right?
As long as you pair them up right, you can wear any clothes
Try this necklace with that
Not at all! You've had this packed away in your closet all this time? What a waste
Ohh, this really goes great together
What's with this boy...?
There's a mountain of department store bags by the door
I knew that talk of being plain was just for show
Wow! Found a really cute cutsew!

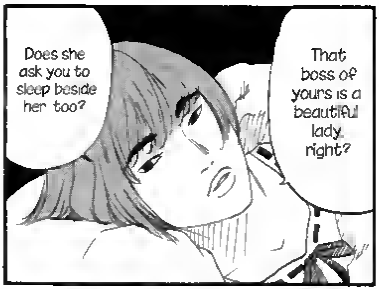
ズラーッ

A full week of Rinda-coordinated outfits!
All set!

What a sweet job
A woman's smile is the best!
Now, to bed.

So? Are you looking forward to tomorrow?

She smiled
Wow..


That boss of yours is a beautiful lady, right?
Does she ask you to sleep beside her too?

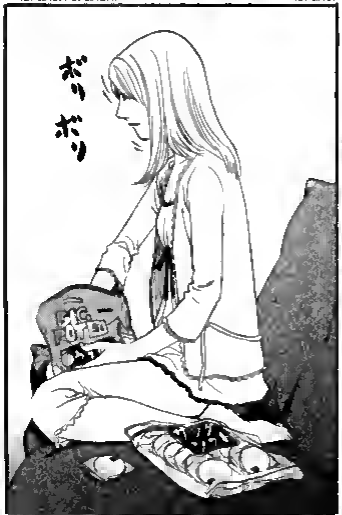
Come to think of it

No way! She wouldn't, not her..

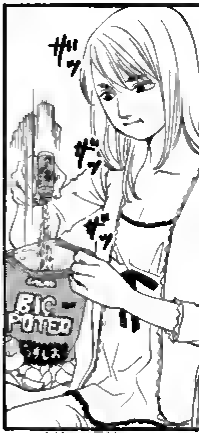
It's never even crossed my mind...
That she would ask us...

«crunch crunch»

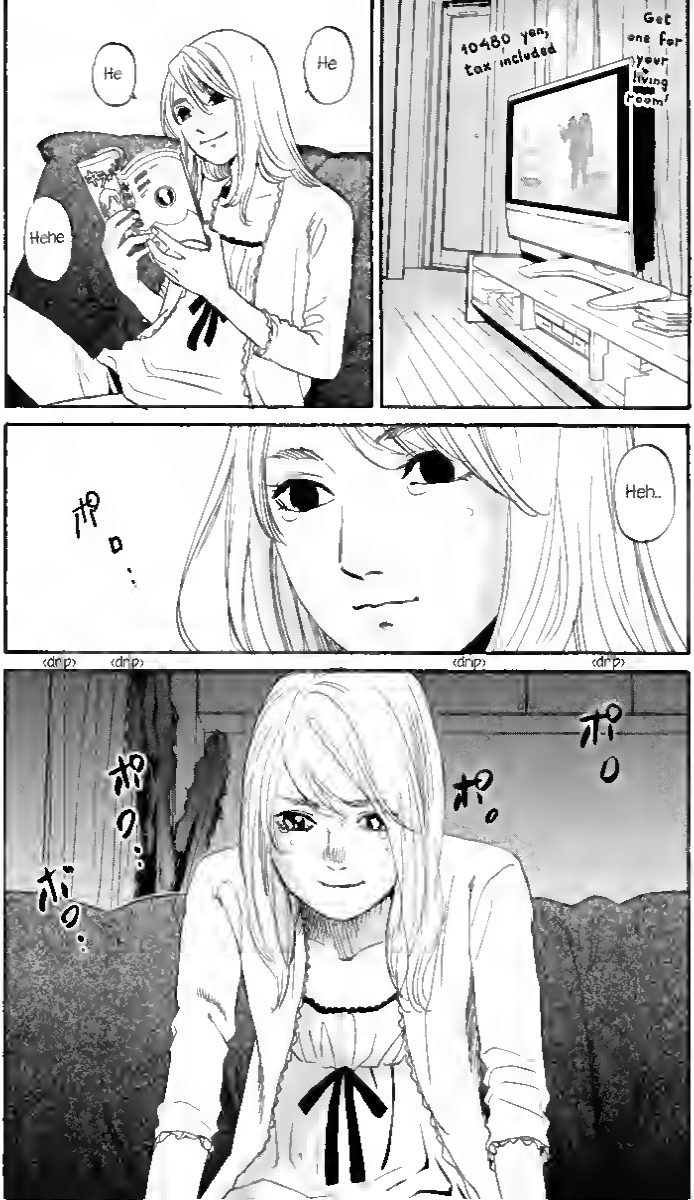
«crunch crunch crunch»



«shake shake»



«sprinkle sprinkle»


He
He
Hehe
10480 yen, tax included
Get one for your living room!
Heh..
ポ
ポ
ポ

His sleeping face
The weight of his arm
The body heat
The breathing
The smell of cigarettes
No!
His...

Alone...

Good morning!

バッ
ヤバッ
It's morning

ホ…

I don't want to show them my weakness

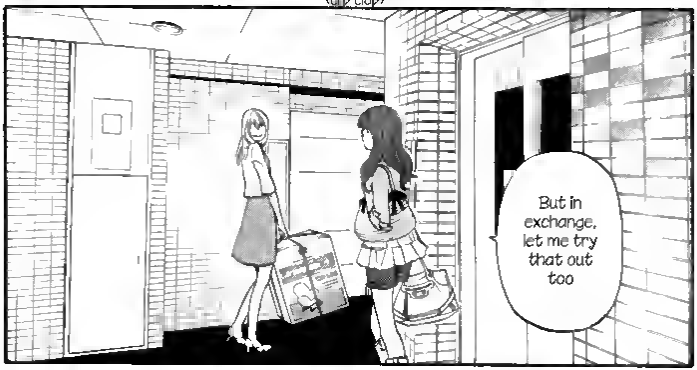
…But, this isn't the end of it

Don't think about it
Aargh
In two days time, I'll have to fight with my weight again.

ズ…
Even if I can't sleep
I don't want to ask the boys.

Fourth episode

Nadeshiko sorry for having you come with me on your day off
Oh, not at all! I had nothing to do anyway.
カッ
ユッ


But in exchange, let me try that out too

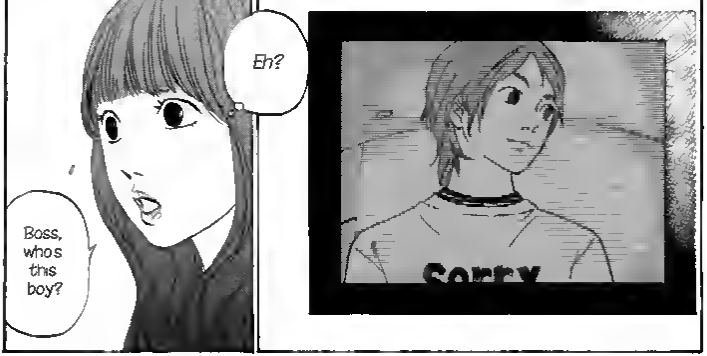
I'm coming in!

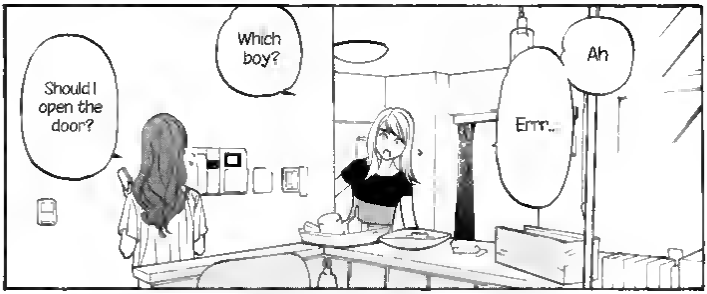
♪
And, I can sneak a peek at what kind of place the boss lives in.

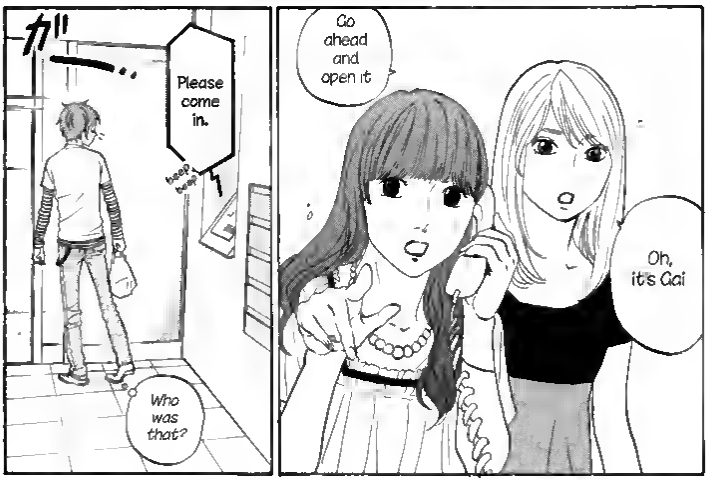
ガチャ

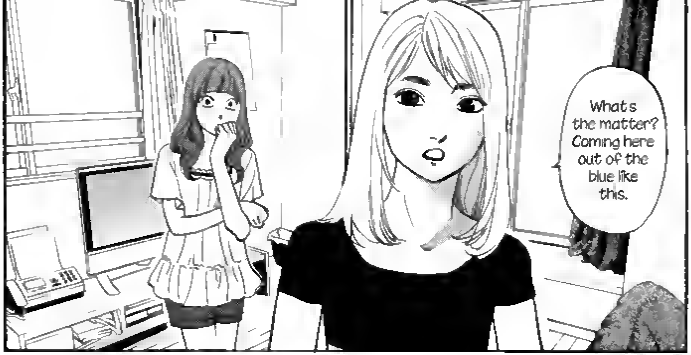
How is it? Feel good?
OOOOHHHH
ぴっ！
ぴぃ！

Umm
Do you live all alone here?
It's so big.
Doesn't feel very lived-in, though...
Well I broke up with my husband...
And, my turn, my turn.
I wonder what kind of man her husband was...
Could she have a picture of him somewhere...?
Oh, right. The boss is divorced.
<ding dong>
ピンポーン
Looks like a delivery. Should I get it?


Eh?
Boss, who's this boy?
Sorry

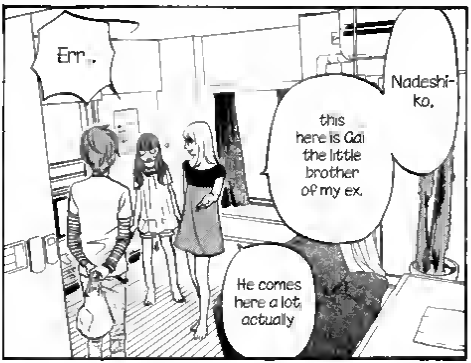

Which boy?
Should I open the door?
Ah
Emm..

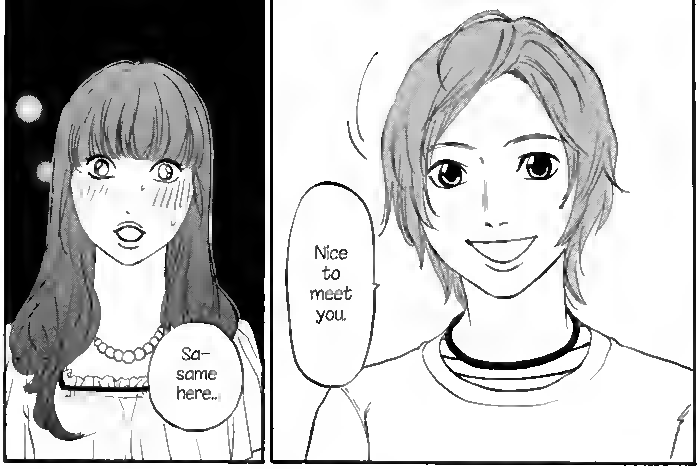

Please come in.
beep beep
Who was that?
Go ahead and open it
Oh, it's Gai

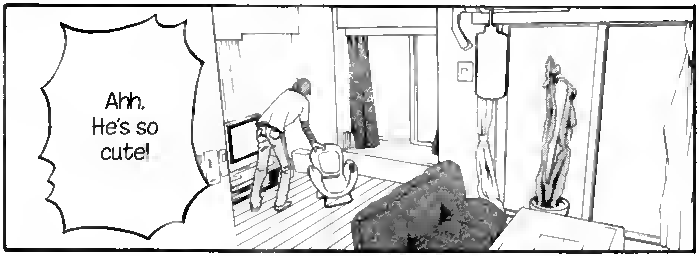

What's the matter? Coming here out of the blue like this.

I found myself in the neighborhood.
So I thought I'd stop by with some custard pudding to eat
Sorry
I'm

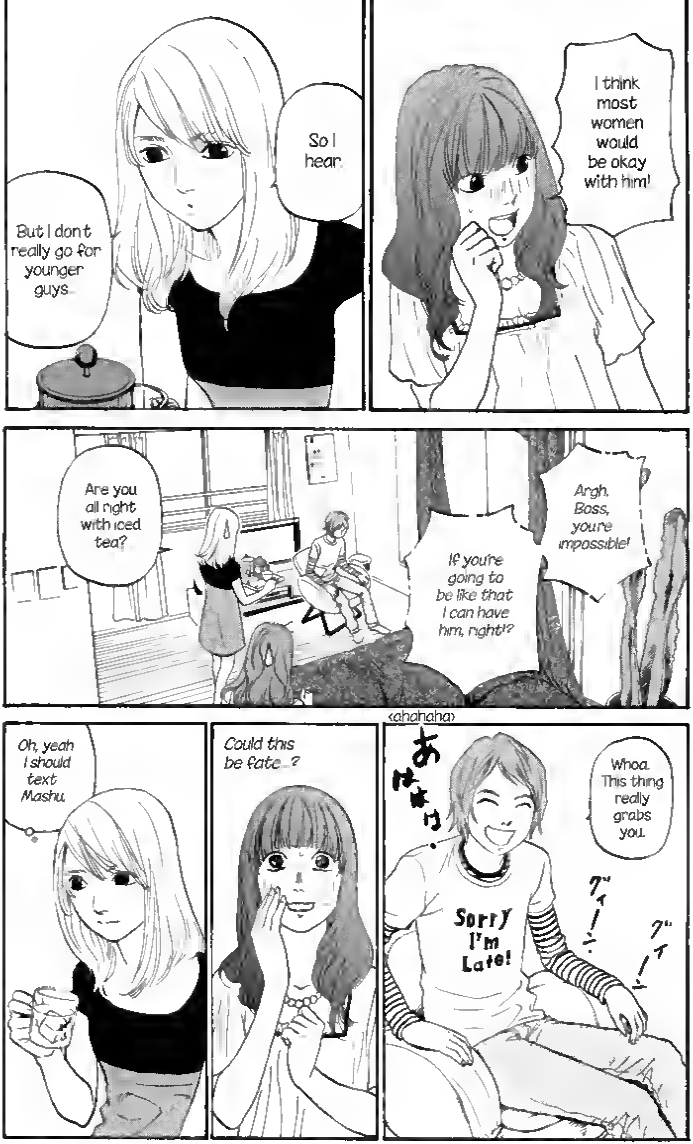
Gai, meet Fuai Nadeshiko She works for me at Green.

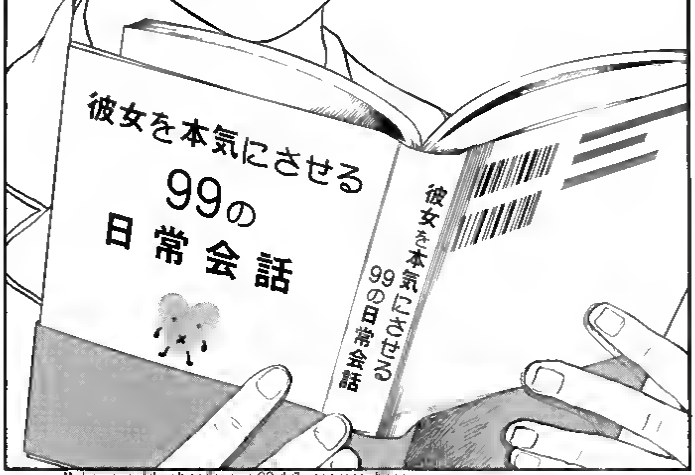

Err..
Nadeshiko, this here is Gai the little brother of my ex.
He comes here a lot, actually


Sa-
same
here..
Nice
to
meet
you.

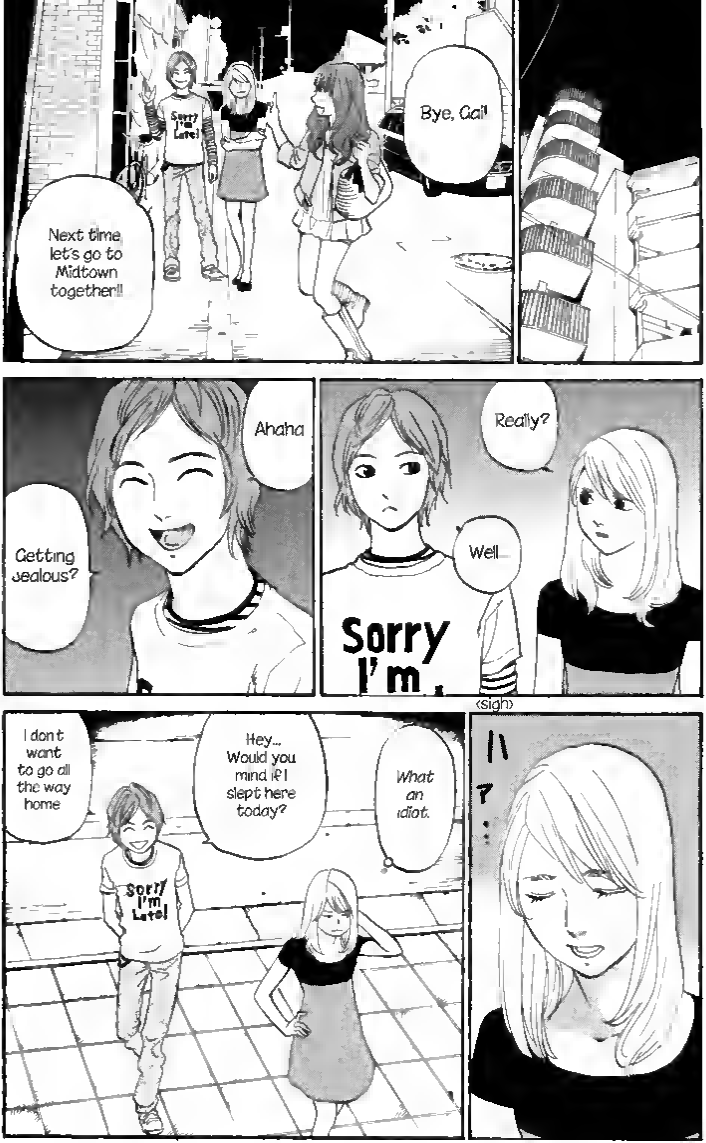

Ahh.
He's so
cute!

What
are you
talking
about?
Are you
that much
into his
type?
Don't tell
me you
and him
And
young!
You
and
him!?


So I hear
But I don't really go for younger guys...
I think most women would be okay with him!
Are you all night with iced tea?
If you're going to be like that I can have him, right!?
Argh. Boss, you're impossible!
<ahahaha>
Oh, yeah I should text Mashu.
Could this be fate...?
Whoa. This thing really grabs you.
Sorry I'm Late!

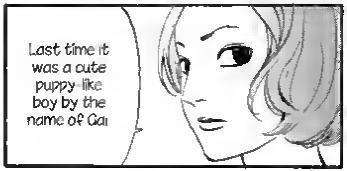


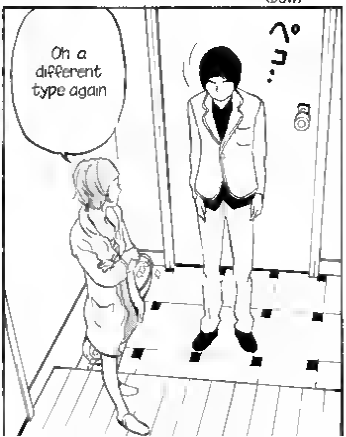
(Make your girl get serious, in 99 daily conversations)


Bye, Gail
Next time let's go to Midtown together!!
Ahaha
Getting jealous?
Really?
Well...
Sorry I'm.
(sigh)
I don't want to go all the way home
Hey... Would you mind if I slept here today?
What an idiot.
Sorry I'm Late!

Come in

(bow)


Last time it was a cute puppy-like boy by the name of Gai


Oh a different type again
ペコ..

Your name?
Uh, it's Mashu.
Tell me that before I have to ask. Really.

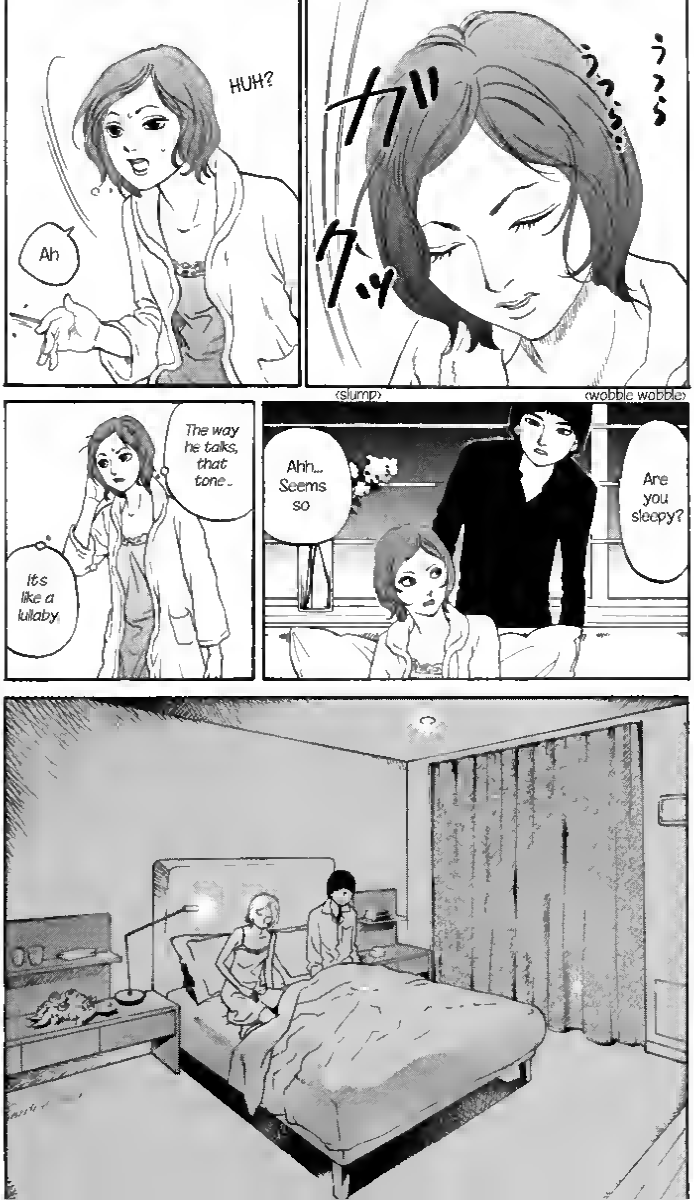
Take a seat anywhere
But that tall stature makes him look like a model.
He's kind of slow.
(silence)
Could you rub my sore shoulders?
Am I really supposed to fall asleep beside him!?
...

He doesn't seem to be cut out for this kind of work.
He's so serious and so taciturn.
...
Mashu.
(Zzz)
But he's the one who gets the fewest complaints.
It's a mystery.
He falls asleep fast, that little puppy
And he was yelping about random stuff all day, today.

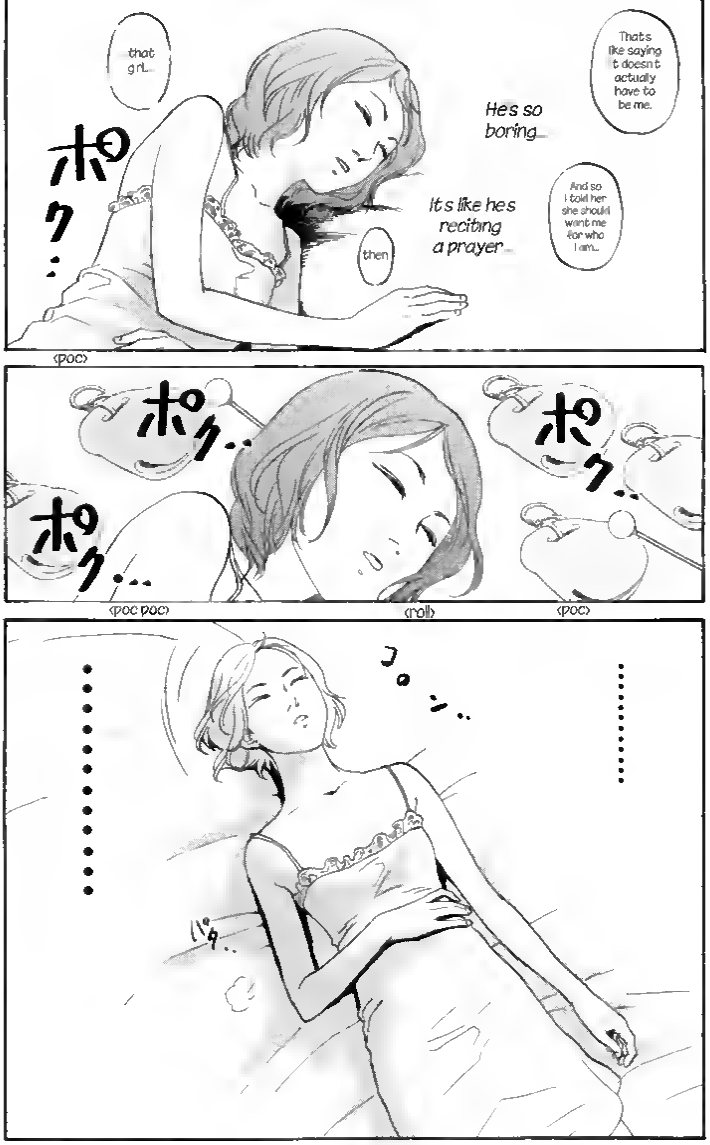
Can't you open your mouth and say something?
What?
Asa do you have a boyfriend?
Uhh...
...
...
What kind of question is that!?
No, I don't!!
Are you very busy...
with work?
Un-believ-able.

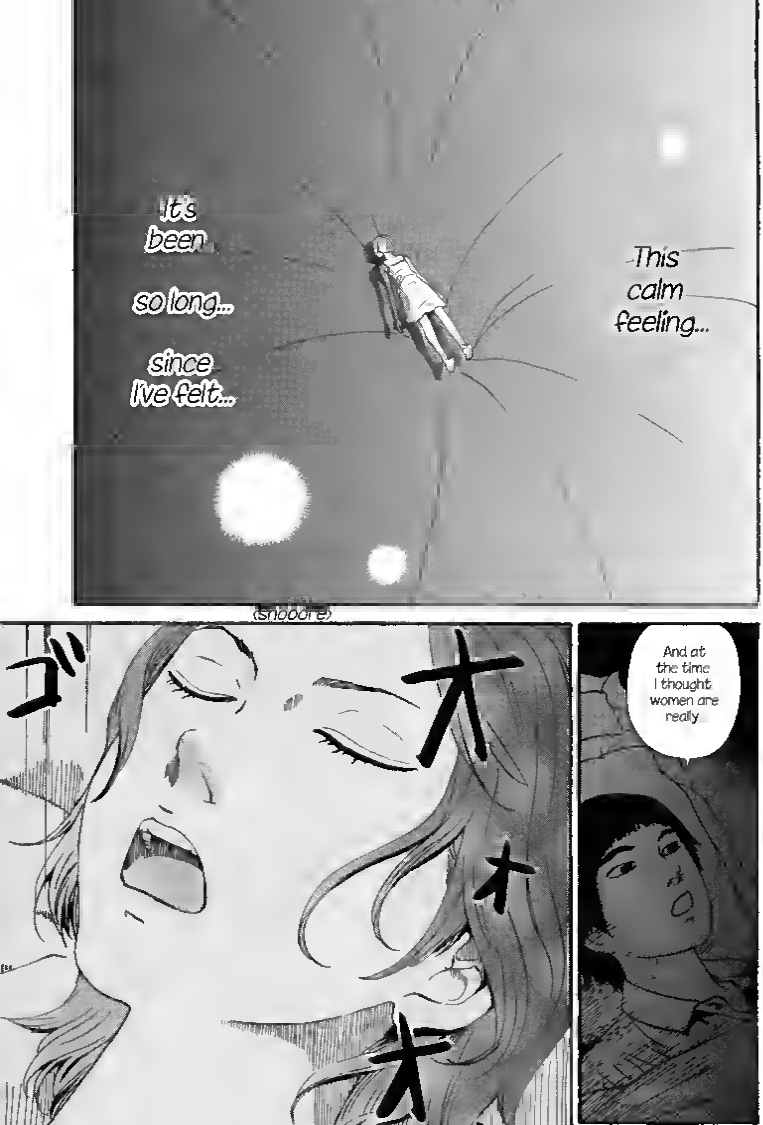
when you're busy
and get that tired, can't you collapse into a deep sleep?
But..
I'm so busy, I can't sleep!!
It's so stressful. But it's not like I can just not do it, either!
I work my ass off all day for those sick patients!
take it out on somebody else right?
The simplest solution would be to...
If you get it from other people,
About that stress...
Ahh...

I just drown it with alcohol.
So, do you have... Someone to take it out on?
Well from a certain point of view
What an awful method.
I guess.
ふっ
...
Do you drink quite a lot?
There is a hormone in your body called serotonin.
It's one of the things that contribute to your feelings of well-being... But drinking alcohol lowers the amount of serotonin, and it seems to take two full days to recover to normal levels...
I mean, don't you feel down after indulging in that sort of thing?
You know, alcohol affects you for two whole days after you binge on it...

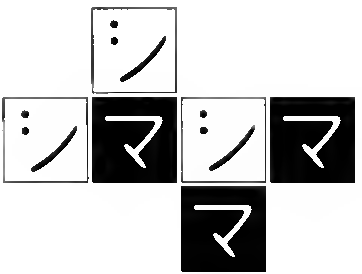

HUH?
Ah
うっう
カク
(slump)
(wobble wobble)
The way he talks, that tone..
It's like a lullaby.
Ahh... Seems so
Are you sleepy?

So, umm, do you have a girlfriend, then?
Umm yes
There is this girl I'm interested in.
Well...
Hmm...
But, you know just guys that are tall, that is...
"I like guys that are tall, and that's why I fell in love with you"...
Then one day, she said to me:
And,
she was my girlfriend.

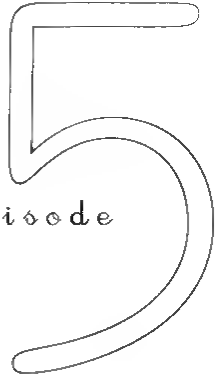

that girl...
ポク...
then
It's like he's reciting a prayer...
He's so boring...
That's like saying it doesn't actually have to be me.
And so I told her she should want me for who I am...
(poc)
ポク...
ポク...
ポク...
(poc poc)
(roll)
(poc)
ン...
ハ?..


It's been so long... since I've felt...
This calm feeling...
(snoore)
ゴ
オ
オ
キ
And at the time I thought women are really...

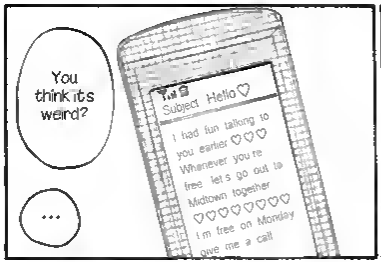
グオ
…
<snore>
This woman didn't listen all the way to the end, either…
ゴゴ…
But, I was just getting to the interesting part…
Once more, Good Night
I was thinking that the experience of working for Striped Sheep would help me achieve my dream… But now it's starting to hurt my confidence…
I should write this next part down.
So I can have her read it tomorrow…
Hopes to become a screen-play writer

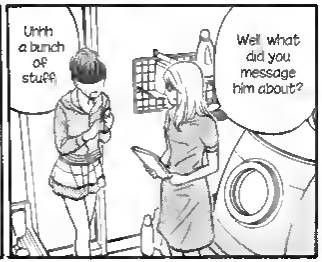


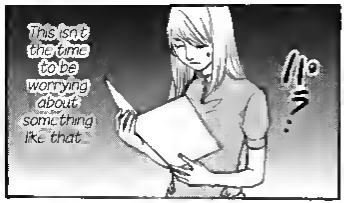
Fifth episode

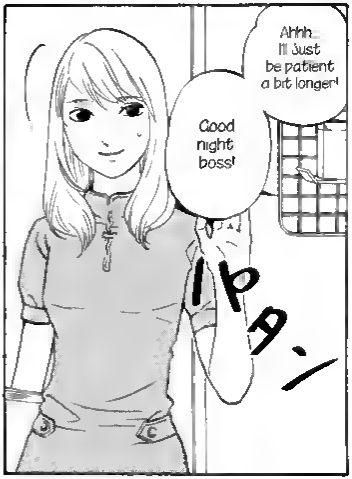


Boss
Gai didn't reply to my message
What do you think?


You think it's weird?
...
Subject Hello♡
I had fun talking to you earlier♡♡♡ Whenever you're free let's go out to Midtown together ♡♡♡♡♡♡♡ I'm free on Monday give me a call

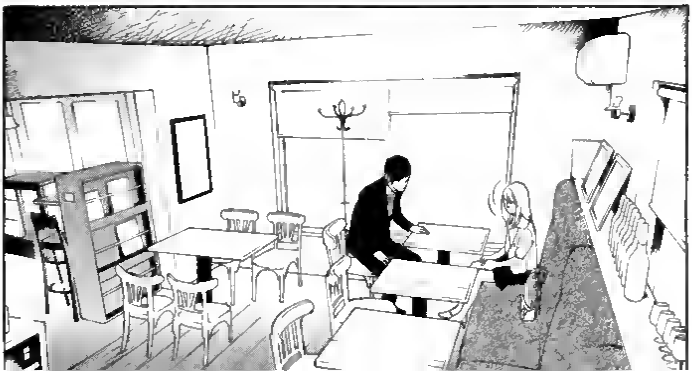

Unhh a bunch of stuff
Well what did you message him about?


This isn't the time to be worrying about something like that...


Ahhh... I'll just be patient a bit longer!
Good night boss!

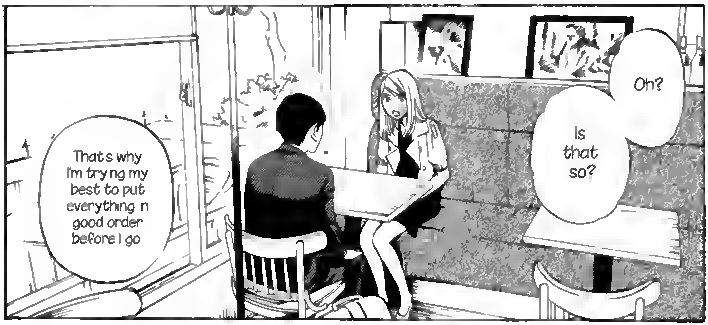
Looks like it's going to be tough this month too..
To make the payment

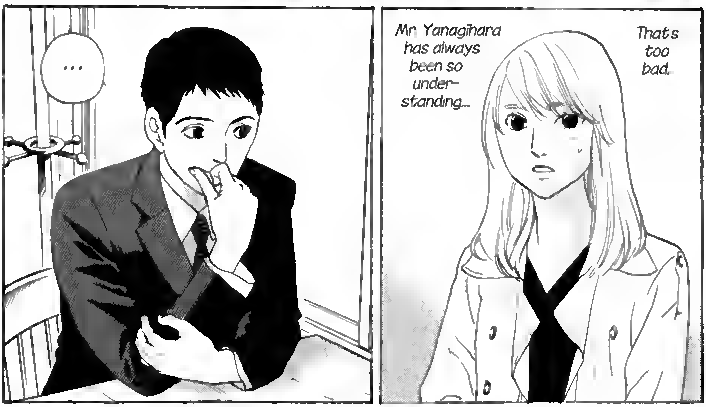
Sorry to have kept you waiting, Mrs. Houkigi



this month
your loan payment to us was a bit short
It looks like
Mrs. Houkigi you've been current on all your payments thus far it won't be a problem
Umm well
Do you think you could do something about it?
Don't mention it. It's part of my job, after all.
I'm so sorry I would really appreciate it
I'll explain the matter to my superiors.

That might be,
but come next month, I'm going to be in charge of a different district
Mr. Yanagihara, you've been with me ever since I opened this shop. You've really looked after us.

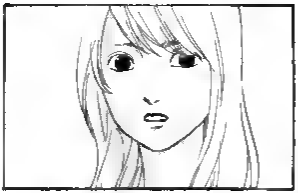

That's why I'm trying my best to put everything in good order before I go
Oh?
Is that so?

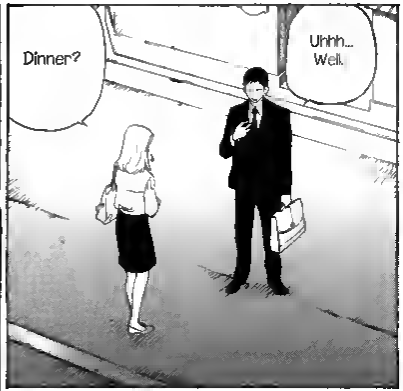

...
Mr. Yanagihara has always been so understanding...
That's too bad.

If you don't mind how about having dinner sometime?

Ah...

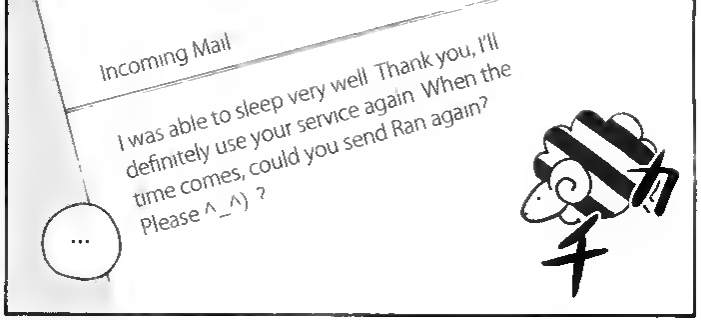
Huh?




Dinner?
Uhhh... Well.

Nah. Nah.
Never mind.

Please excuse me!
Bye, then!
<bow>
<bow>
I got asked out...
Hmm_?

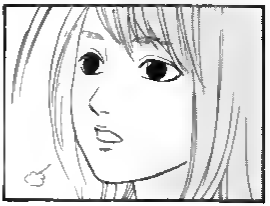

Incoming Mail
I was able to sleep very well! Thank you, I'll definitely use your service again. When the time comes, could you send Ran again? Please ^_^) ?
...

It felt like he was trying to say that we should meet again.
It's our policy to not allow clients to choose their guy.

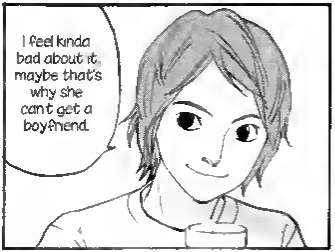
But it's kind of refreshing, after being around those guys all the time.

How clumsy of him.

HiVNVN



Cai? Aren't you going home?
3


I feel kinda bad about it, maybe that's why she can't get a boyfriend.

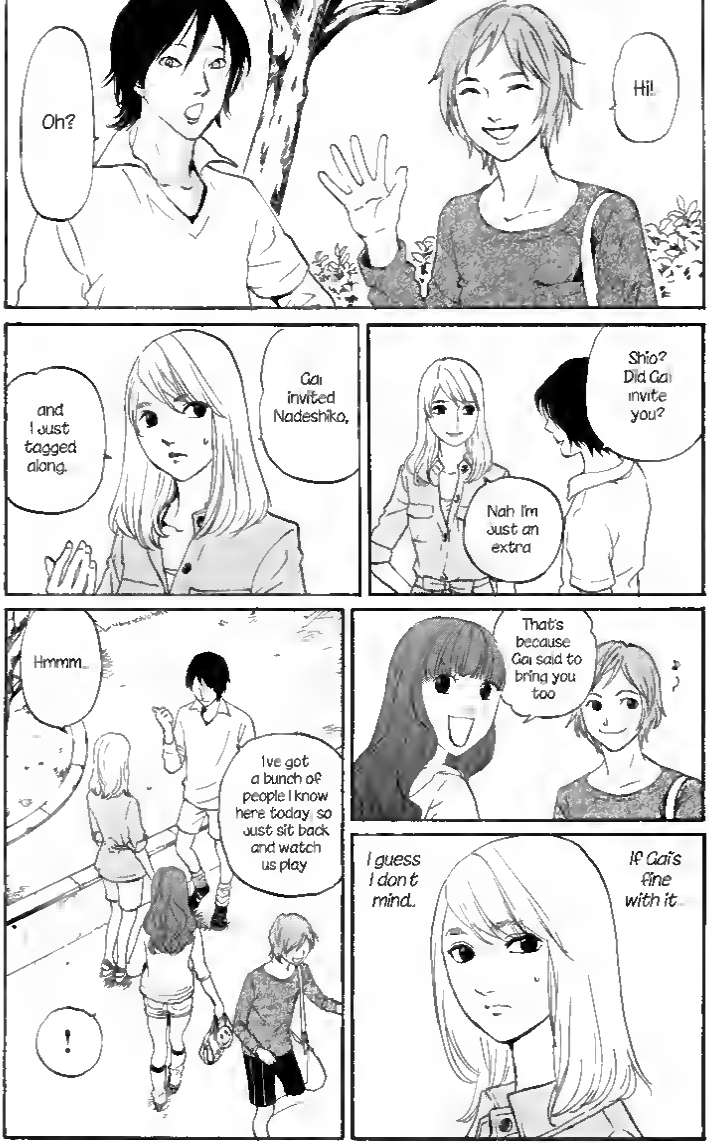
Let me crash here, Rinda.
Shio lets me stay at her place, but I'm already there too much

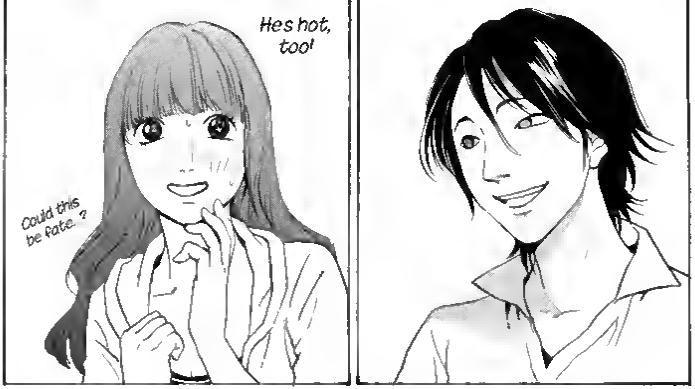
Cai seems to not like going home...
It's fine I don't mind

I dunno. Breaking up with my brother was really hard on her
But, Shio doesn't want a boyfriend, right?
Here, Tarou.
Like I care.
So what's your brother doing now?
Everyone's wishing the best for Shio, though.
He just does whatever he wants, and I have to take care of all of his responsibilities.
Though, he does call home from time to time now

Dammit
...
"I don't have enough guys for this soccer match tomorrow... Could you..."
Ha Ha
Go ahead! I know you used to play in school
Ah!
Huh?
A message from Ran.

Oh! Thanks for coming today
Yo!
Piece of cake! It's outdoor soccer, after all.
Ran did you actually find enough players?
Thanks for the lip gloss, boss!
Never mind that. Nadeshiko. You know your cleavage is really low right?
Well duh. It's on purpose of course!
Hey! Gai-!


Oh?
Hi!
and I just tagged along.
Gai invited Nadeshiko,
Shio? Did Gai invite you?
Nah I'm just an extra
Hmmm...
I've got a bunch of people I know here today so just sit back and watch us play
!
That's because Gai said to bring you too
I guess I don't mind..
If Gai's fine with it...

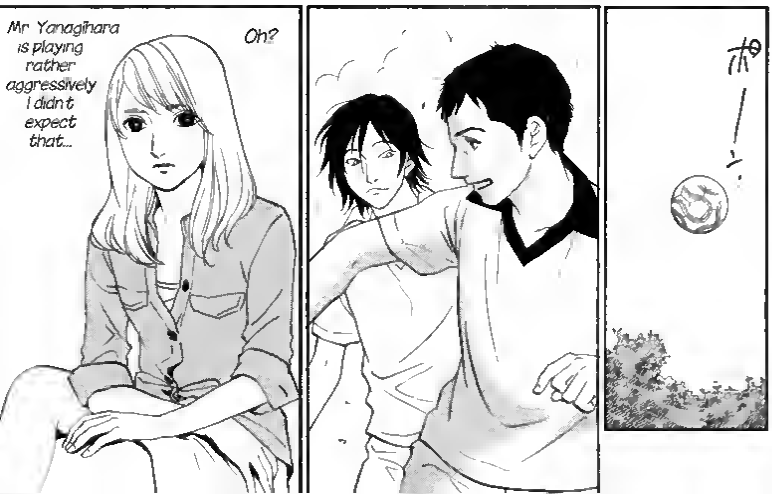

He's hot, too!
Could this be fate...?

OVER HERE!
HEEEY!

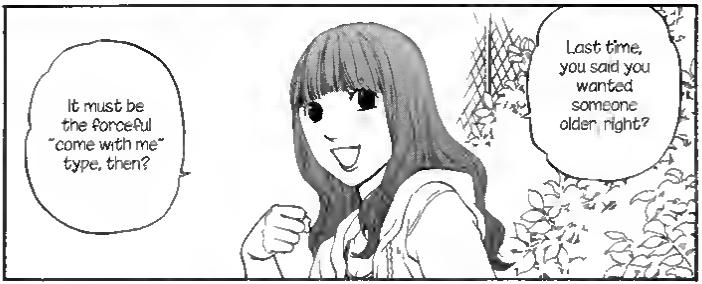
They sure are looking wholesome
Come on, get that estrogen flowing!
It's good for your complexion!

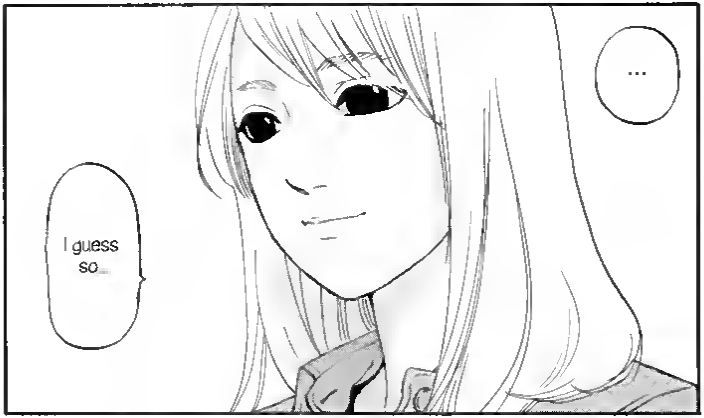
Well, that may be.
But the sun is stronger than I thought today. It's more important to put another layer of sunscreen on.
Unh...
Mr. Yanagihara!?
Ahhh, Mrs. Houkigi!
What a coincidence...
I'm here playing soccer today
This is a surprise!

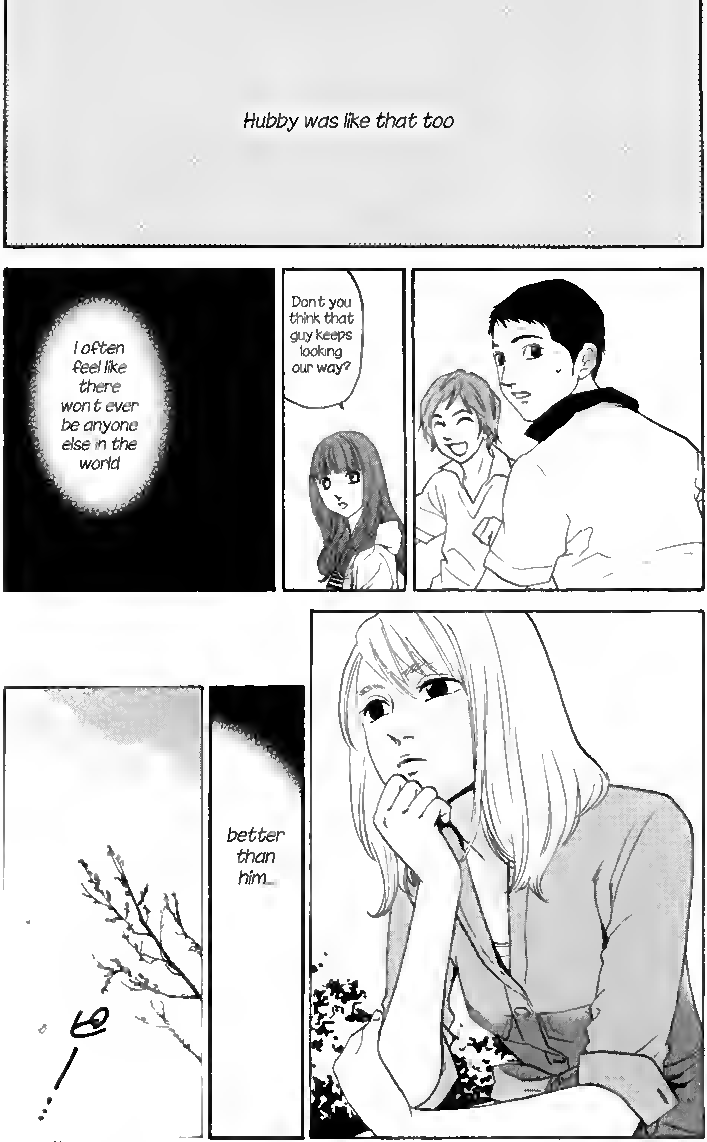
Boss, who was that?
Well, I'll see you later
<pow..>
Is that true?
I never thought we'd meet here.
That's the account manager for the loan on the shop
this must be fate, right?

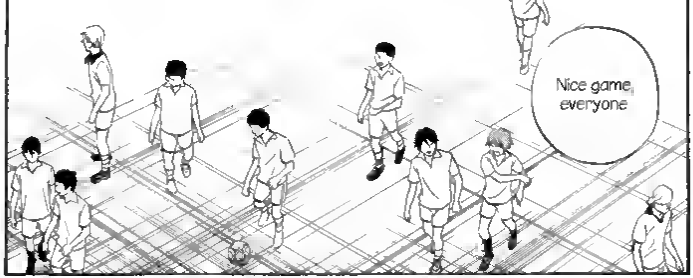

Mr Yanagihara is playing rather aggressively I didn't expect that...
Oh?

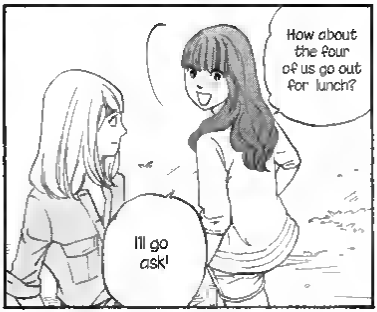
Hmm?
How they play in a game like soccer is a hint of what they're like in bed, right?
Ahahaha, Gai looks completely beat!
So boss what kind of guy is your type?


It must be the forceful "come with me" type, then?
Last time, you said you wanted someone older, right?

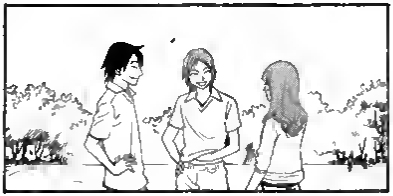

...
I guess so...


Hubby was like that too
I often feel like there won't ever be anyone else in the world
Don't you think that guy keeps looking our way?
better than him...
Eo!
<thwee>

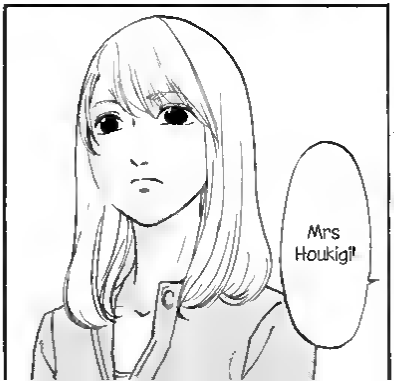


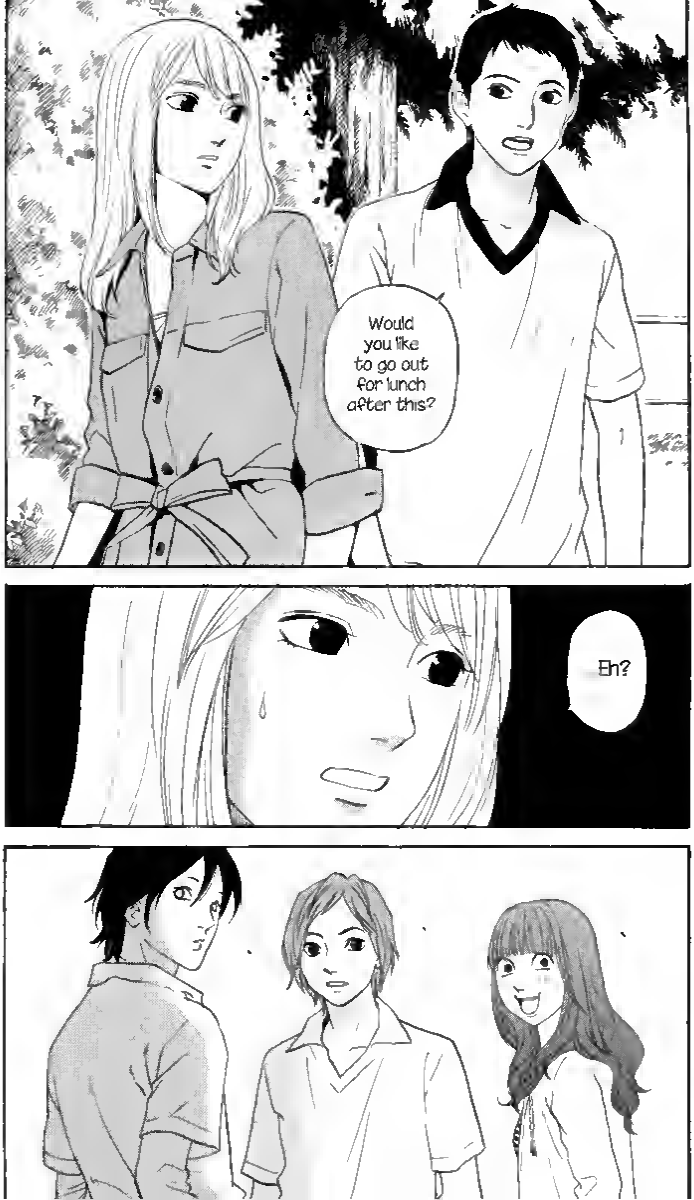


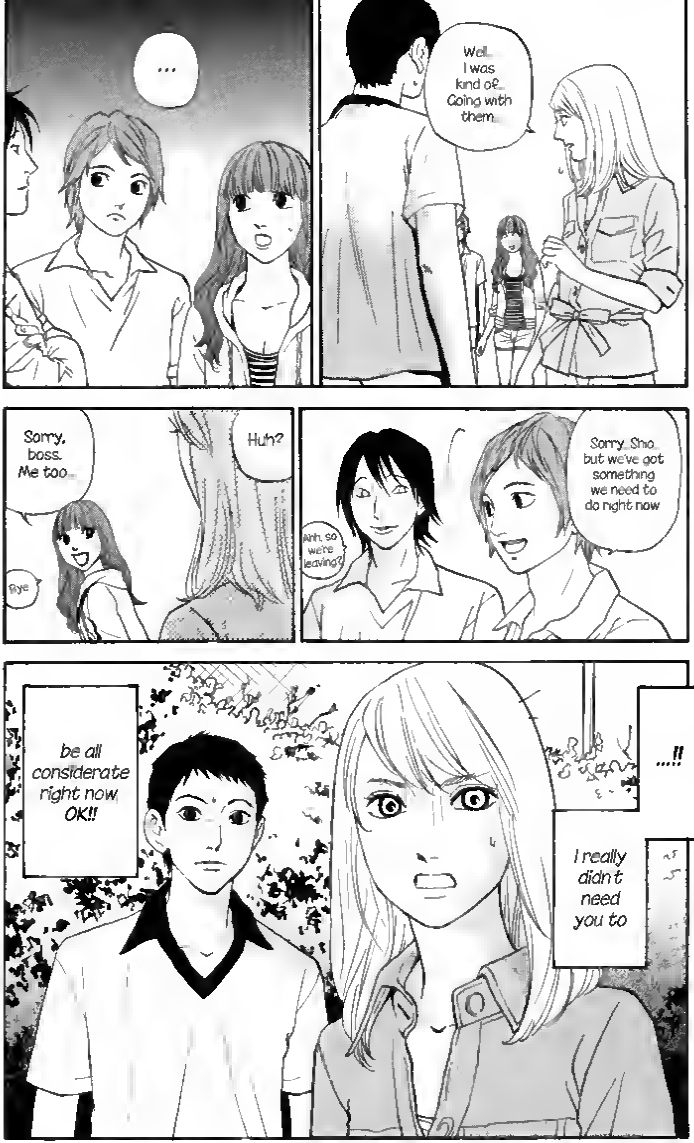
(huff huff)

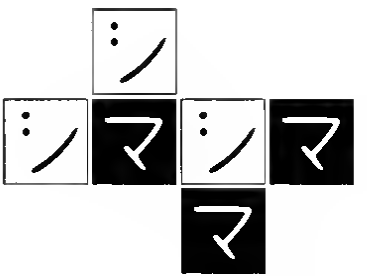


(rub rub)

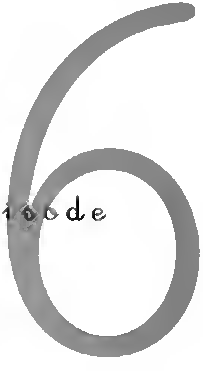



Would you like to go out for lunch after this?
Eh?


...
Well... I was kind of... Going with them...
Sorry, boss. Me too...
Huh?
Bye!
Sorry, Sho... but we've got something we need to do right now
Ahh, so we're leaving?
be all considerate right now, OK!!
I really didn't need you to
...!!

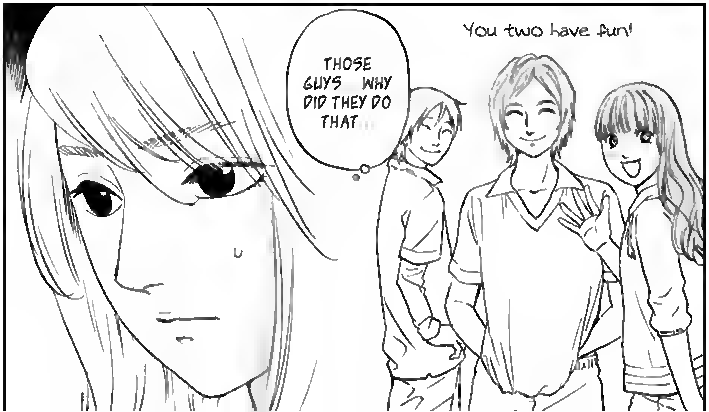


Sixth episode

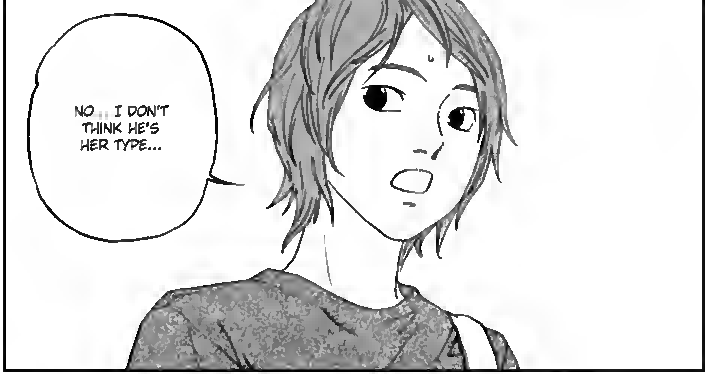


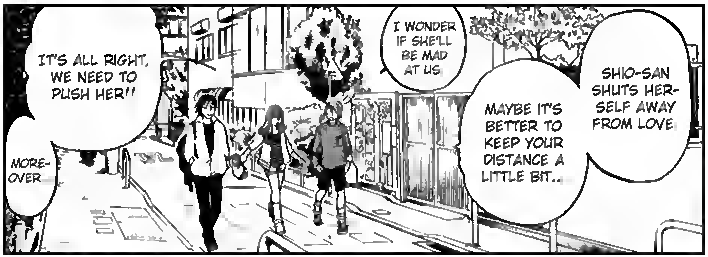
It was before we were married...
SHIO! LISTEN.
HM?
We hadn't told any of our friends that we were dating.
I DON'T WANT TO STAY WITH THESE NOISY PEOPLE UNTIL MORNING...
EH?
LET'S SNEAK OUT OF HERE RIGHT NOW...
Hibiki-san...!!
Kyah
Ahaha
He always made my heart race.

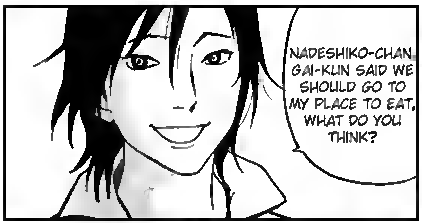
IS THERE SOMETHING YOU WOULD LIKE TO EAT?


You two have fun!
THOSE GUYS... WHY DID THEY DO THAT...

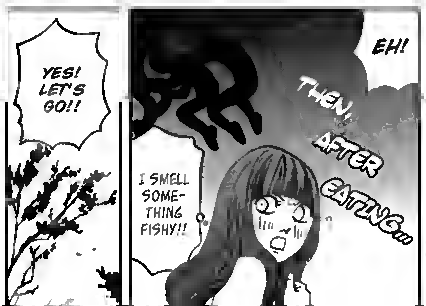
So Yanagihara-san.. didn't see through their plot..
ANYTHING IS FINE
IS THAT SO?
HOW ABOUT FRENCH FOOD FOR EXAMPLE?
AH, SO YOU LIKE SUSHI?
MAYBE SOMETHING MORE CASUAL...
EH
CASUAL, CASUAL... LEMME...
SEE
TRIP
AH, ARE YOU OKAY?
GASP
AH...
.....
Relax.


NO... I DON'T THINK HE'S HER TYPE...

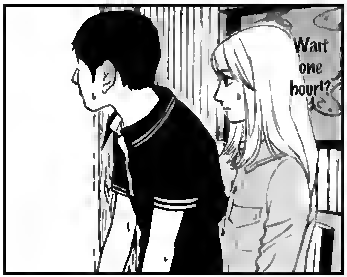

SHIO-SAN SHUTS HERSELF AWAY FROM LOVE
I WONDER IF SHE'LL BE MAD AT US
MAYBE IT'S BETTER TO KEEP YOUR DISTANCE A LITTLE BIT..
IT'S ALL RIGHT, WE NEED TO PUSH HER!!
MOREOVER

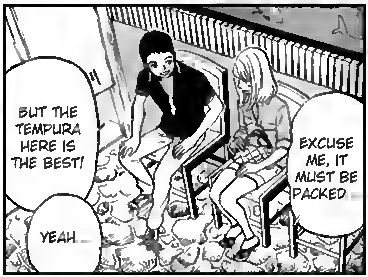

NADESHIKO-CHAN, GAI-KUN SAID WE SHOULD GO TO MY PLACE TO EAT, WHAT DO YOU THINK?

AH? MY PLACE!?
I CAN HAVE THESE TWO TO MYSELF ♡

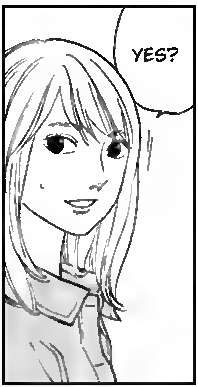

EH!
THEN, AFTER EATING...
I SMELL SOMETHING FISHY!!
YES! LET'S GO!!

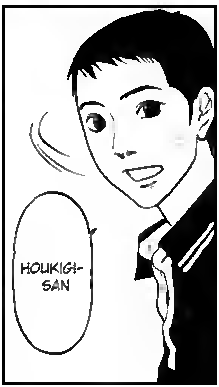
WE HAVE TO WAIT HERE FOR ONE HOUR...

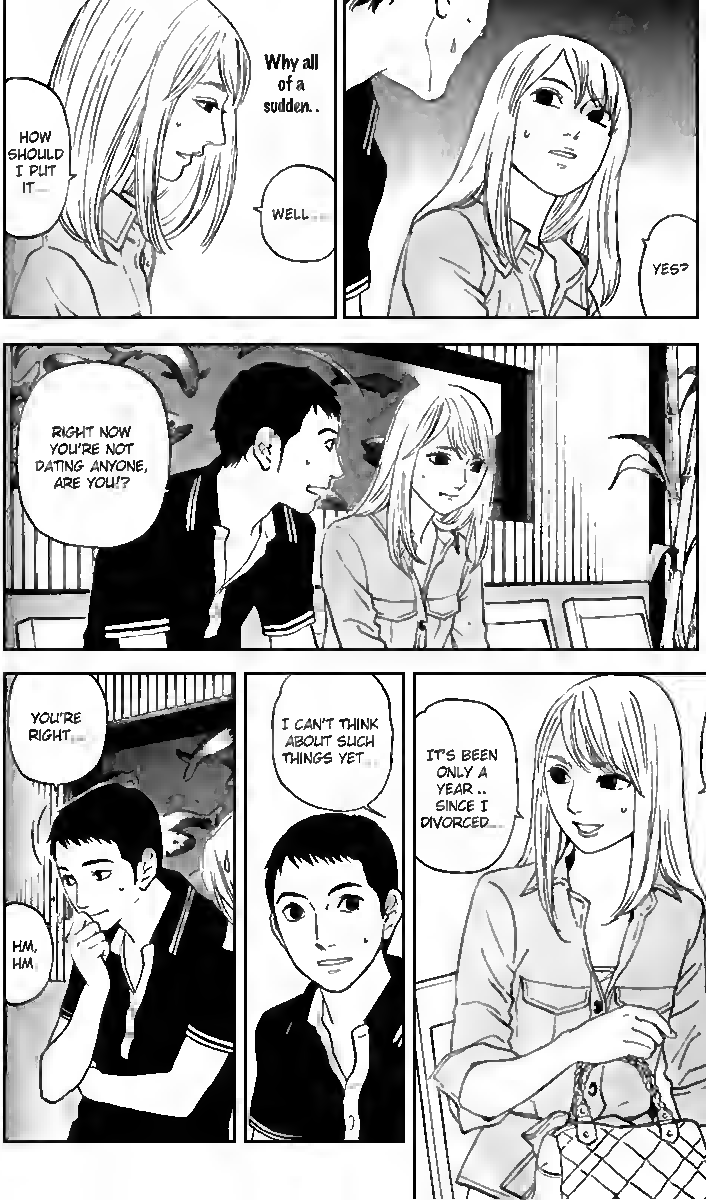

Wait one hour!?


BUT THE TEMPURA HERE IS THE BEST!
YEAH...
EXCUSE ME, IT MUST BE PACKED...

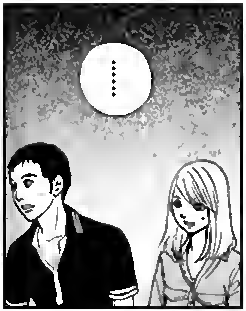
YOU'RE NOT MARRIED ANYMORE, ARE YOU?


YES?

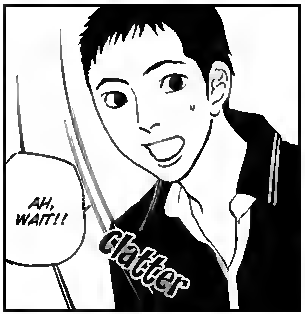

HOUKIGI-SAN

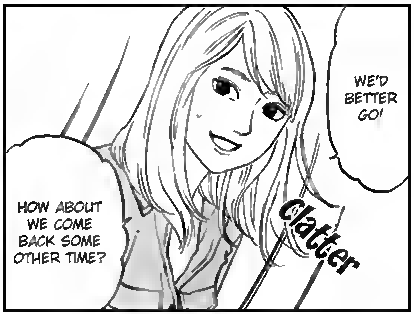

HOW SHOULD I PUT IT...
WELL...
Why all of a sudden..
YES?
RIGHT NOW YOU'RE NOT DATING ANYONE, ARE YOU!?
YOU'RE RIGHT...
HM, HM.
I CAN'T THINK ABOUT SUCH THINGS YET...
IT'S BEEN ONLY A YEAR.. SINCE I DIVORCED...
NO.

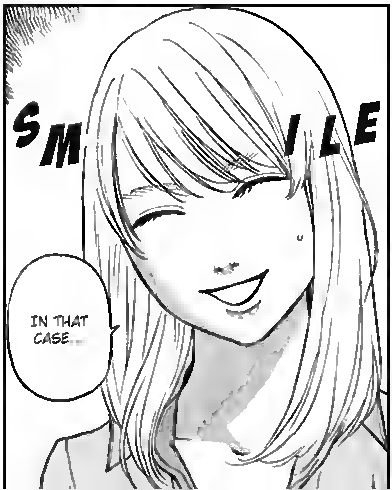
HOUKIGI-SAN, YOU'RE 28, RIGHT?
I'M 32 YEARS OLD...
MY PARENTS ARE STARTING TO TALK ABOUT IT LATELY...
Hm..
Let's change the subject ...
I'M FROM CHIBA, I GO HOME SEVERAL TIMES A YEAR.
EACH TIME I WAS TOLD TO BRING A GIRL HOME WITH ME...
YANAGIHARA-SAN WHERE ARE YOU FROM?
Ah...
BUT I DON'T WANT TO RUSH THINGS.
LOOKING FOR A GIRL THAT I LIKE...
I want to go home..
But he's a business partner ..
WHAT!? YOU DIDN'T CHECK THEM IN AS A GROUP ?

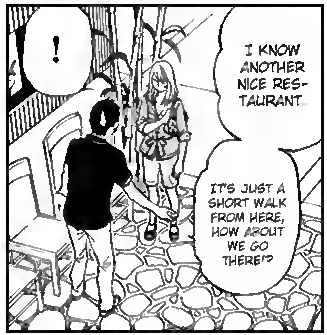

.....

!
WHAT ARE THEY DOING!!


AH, WAIT!!
clatter


WE'D BETTER GO!
HOW ABOUT WE COME BACK SOME OTHER TIME?
clatter

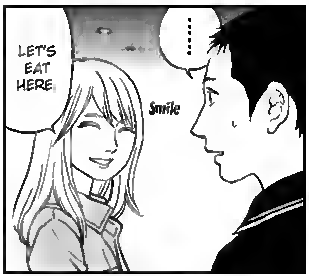

SMILE
IN THAT CASE...

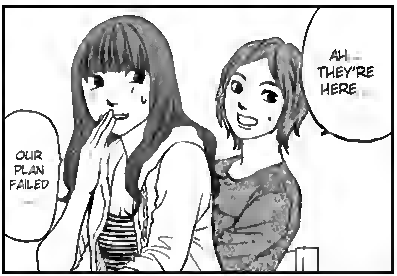

!
I KNOW ANOTHER NICE RESTAURANT.
IT'S JUST A SHORT WALK FROM HERE, HOW ABOUT WE GO THERE!?

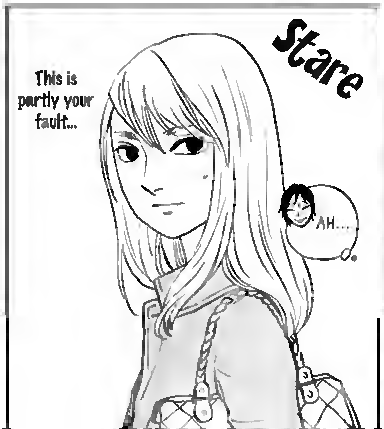
...

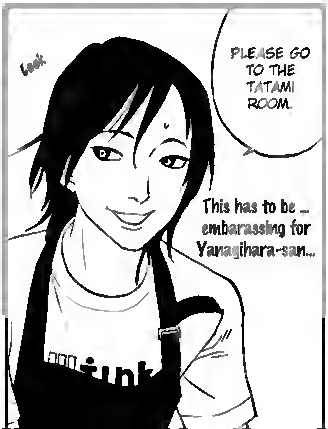
UGH,
THIS... IS AWFUL
S-L-I-M-E-Y
THAT'S TODAY'S SPECIAL
WA... NO WAY NO WAY
HERE, TAKE IT, TAKE IT!!
HA...
Ran-san's family runs a pub...
IT'S DELI-CIOUS!
IT IS
RAN-SAN GOT OUR STOMACHS PEGGED
I COULDN'T BE A TROUBLE-SHOOTER OTHERWISE
NADESHIKO-CHAN IF YOU HAVE ANY PROBLEMS

WELCOME...

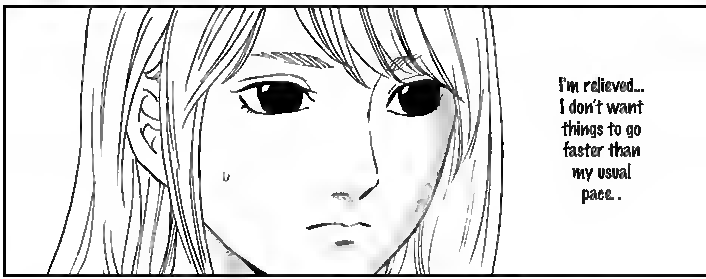

LET'S EAT HERE.
Smile


AH... THEY'RE HERE...
OUR PLAN FAILED...


Stare
This is partly your fault...
AH....


Look
PLEASE GO TO THE TATAMI ROOM.
This has to be ... embarassing for Yanagihara-san...

AH, YOU'RE WELCOME
ABOUT THE MATCH, THANKS


I'm relieved... I don't want things to go faster than my usual pace..

Evil Laugh
OKAY, PLEASE TAKE YOUR TIME!!
Dad

I'LL TEXT YOU LATER.

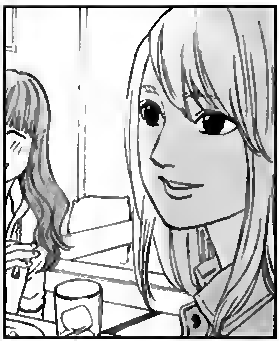
SHIO-SAN, I GOTTA GO OUT TONIGHT,
But my dad's here
AH, I SEE

IT'S RAN FROM STRIPED SHEEP...
WHY WASN'T THE DOOR LOCKED?
ARE YOU OKAY?
HELLO?
PLEASE GO AWAY... I'M NOT IN THE MOOD.
SOB
SOB
SOB

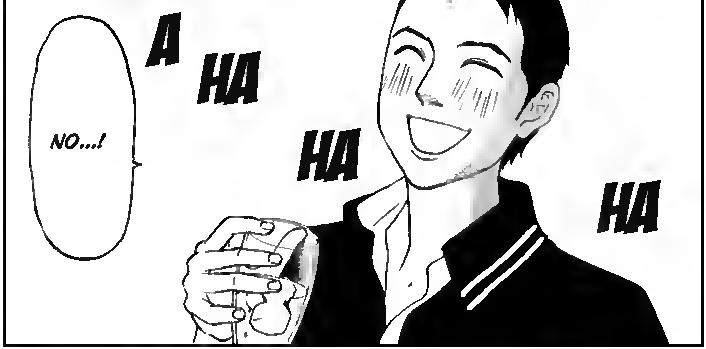
E EVERY-BODY
I FAIL
AT MY JOB
I...
WHY?
.....
S-I-G-H
I BETTER DISAPPEAR..
!
HUG
HERE, LET ME

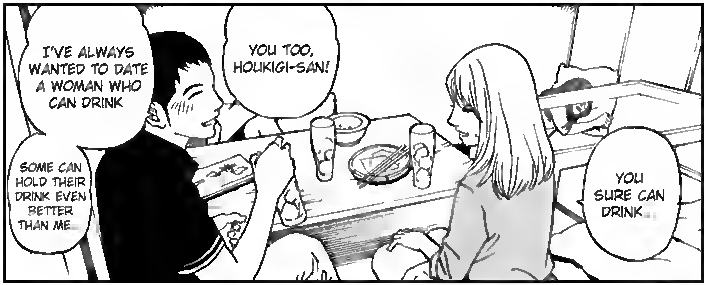
Maybe tomorrow, maybe the day after tomorrow.

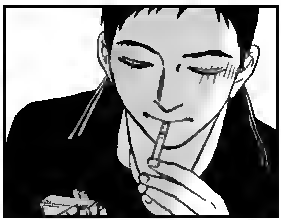
Anybody can have a hard day.

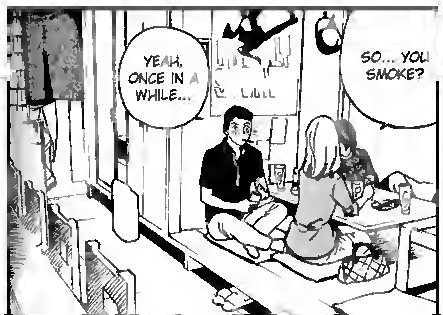


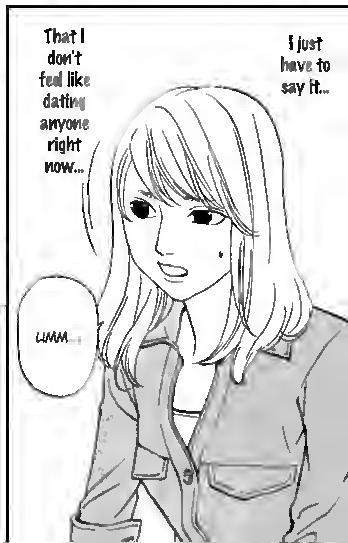
Hold her hand for a moment...
Sizzle
HM, NOT BAD.
THE MEAL'S READY.

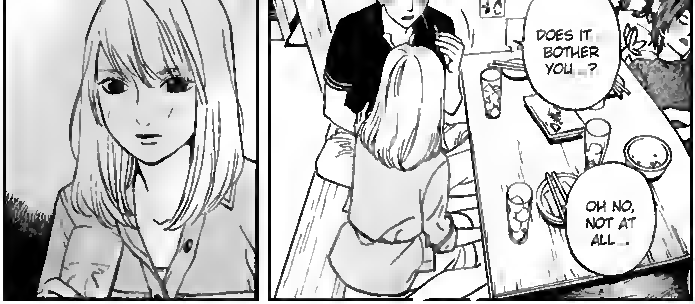

A HA
HA
HA
NO...!


I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO DATE A WOMAN WHO CAN DRINK
SOME CAN HOLD THEIR DRINK EVEN BETTER THAN ME.
YOU TOO, HOUKIGI-SAN!
YOU SURE CAN DRINK...

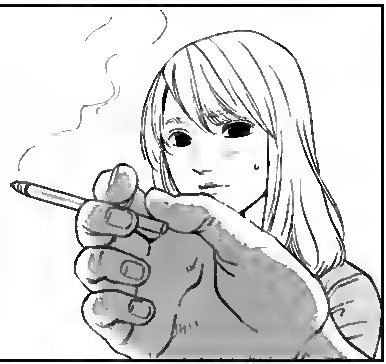



YEAH, ONCE IN A WHILE...
SO... YOU SMOKE?

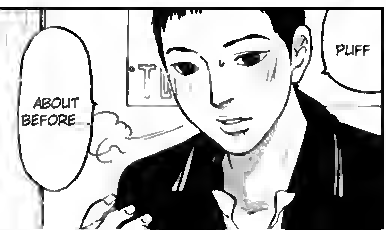

That I don't feel like dating anyone right now...
I just have to say it...
UMM...

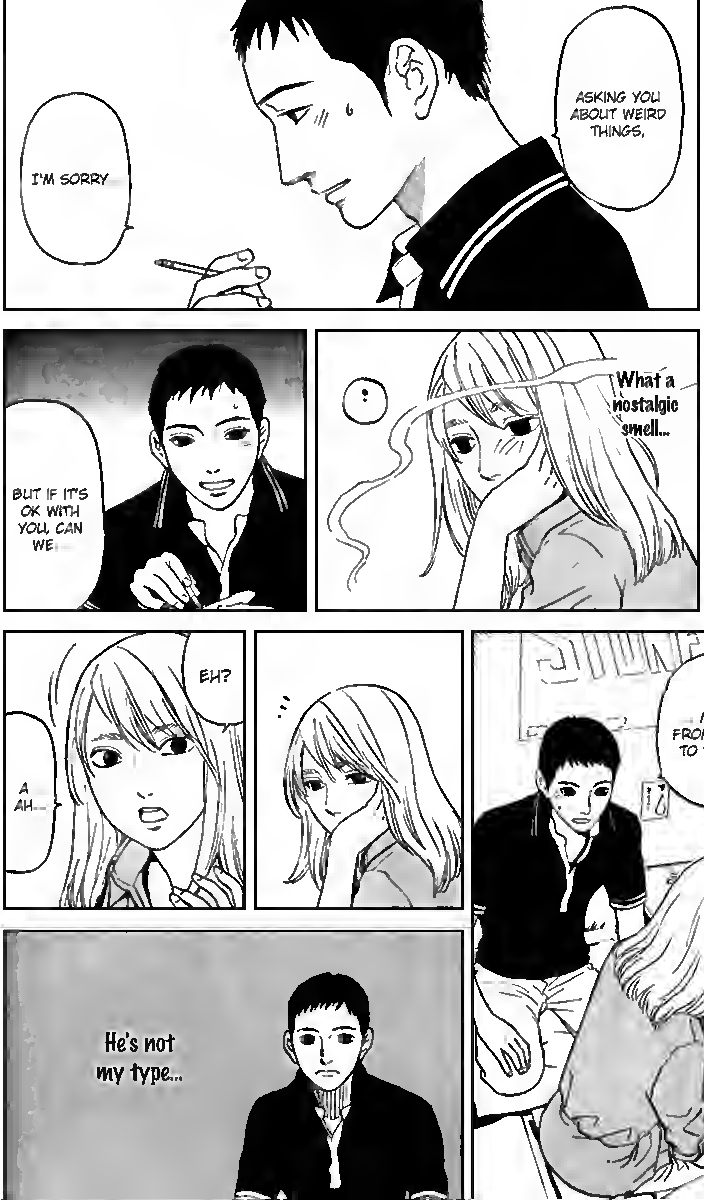

DOES IT BOTHER YOU...?
OH NO, NOT AT ALL...

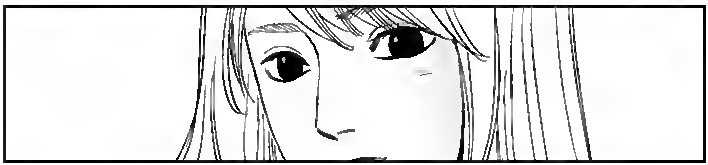
CAMEL
The same brand as Hibiki-san's...



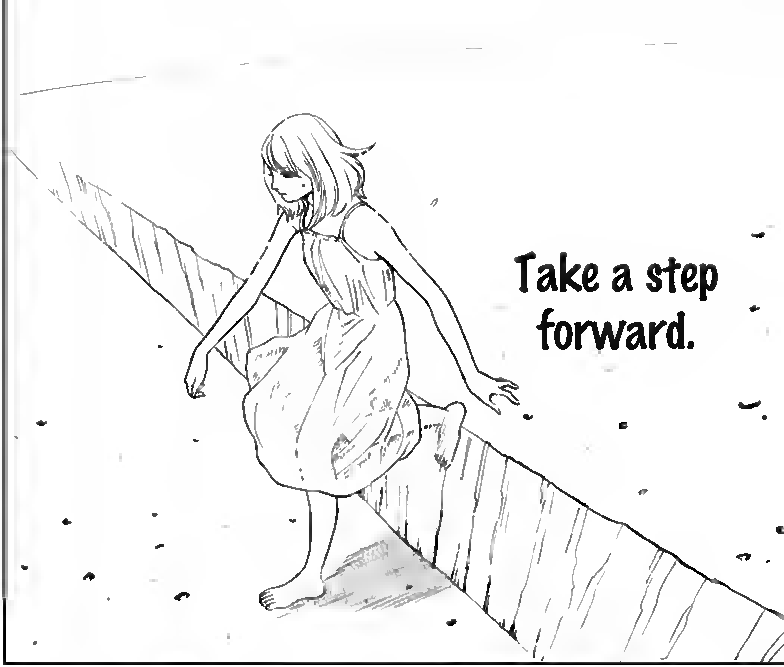
Click

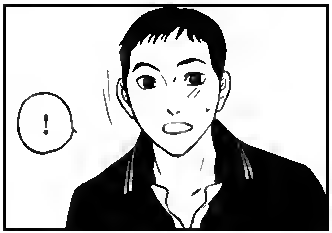

PUFF
ABOUT BEFORE...

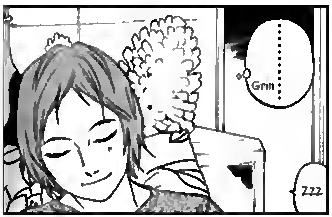

ASKING YOU ABOUT WEIRD THINGS,
I'M SORRY
BUT IF IT'S OK WITH YOU, CAN WE...
What a nostalgic smell...
EH?
A AH...
MEET FROM TIME TO TIME?
He's not my type...



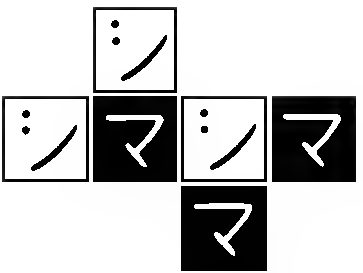
He is not my Mr. Right...


Take a step forward.


!


Gnn
Zzz

YES...



SHIMA SHIMA

YAMAZAKI SAYAKA

BROUGHT TO YOU BY: NATSU SCANS

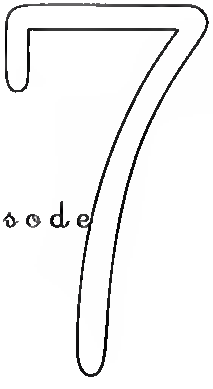
LONGVAN :TRANSLATOR

EDITOR: SHRUBBERY

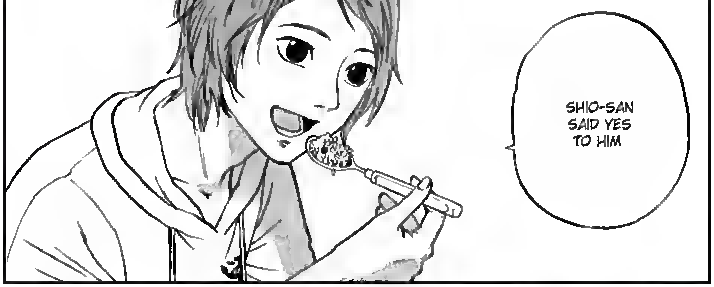
WE NEED TRANSLATORS AND EDITORS (CLEAN AND/OR TYPESET)!

NATSUYUME.COM

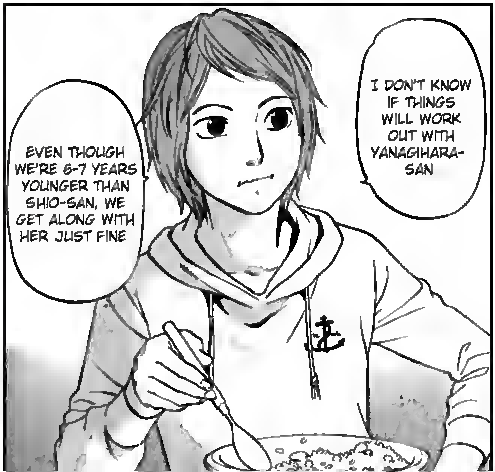
Seventh episode



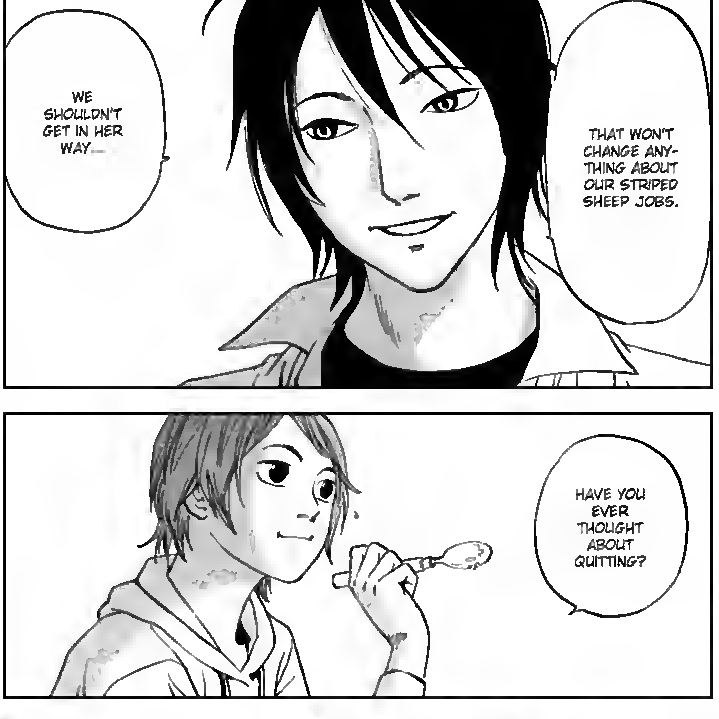
HERE YOU GO.
THUMP
GAI, HOW DID IT GO YESTERDAY?


SHIO-SAN SAID YES TO HIM

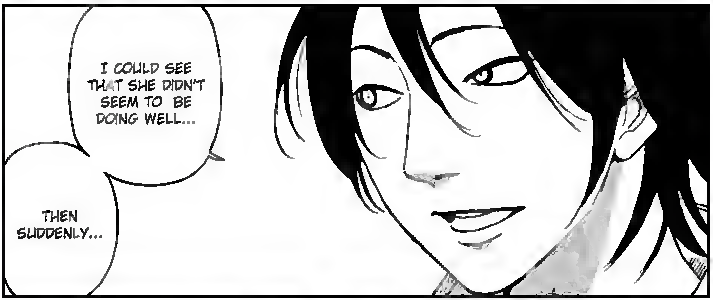
IF SHE DATES HIM.
WILL I HAVE ONE LESS PLACE TO SLEEP?
SO.
EHH.


EVEN THOUGH WE'RE 6-7 YEARS YOUNGER THAN SHIO-SAN, WE GET ALONG WITH HER JUST FINE
I DON'T KNOW IF THINGS WILL WORK OUT WITH YANAGIHARA-SAN

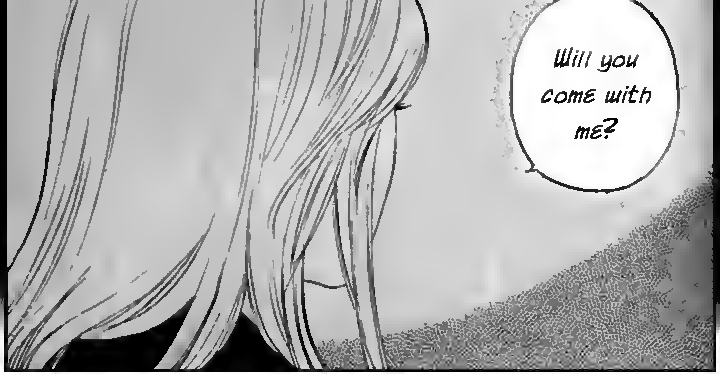
NORMALLY, YOU SHOULDN'T BE DOING IT


WE SHOULDN'T GET IN HER WAY...
THAT WON'T CHANGE ANY-THING ABOUT OUR STRIPED SHEEP JOBS.
HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT QUITTING?
NO.
IT WAS HARD AT FIRST, BUT NOW I'VE COME TO LIKE IT.
YEAH, WE LIKE IT TOO.
I CAN RECALL
THE FIRST TIME WE MET ..

BACK THEN...
Excuse me, ma'am, but we are closing


I COULD SEE THAT SHE DIDN'T SEEM TO BE DOING WELL...
THEN SUDDENLY...

CLATTER
Are you okay?
.....


Will you come with me?

THEN... WHEN YOU TWO ARRIVED, WE WERE WAITING THERE
I THOUGHT SHE WAS FLIRTING WITH ME.
THAT'S WHAT SHE SAID.

WHAT WOULD'VE HAPPENED IF WE WEREN'T THERE?
BUT WHY DID YOU FOLLOW HER?

THAT'S RIGHT...

AT THAT TIME...
SHIO-SAN WAS EXTREMELY...
HM.
SHE WAS WHAT!?
S-L-I-D-E
NOD
HA

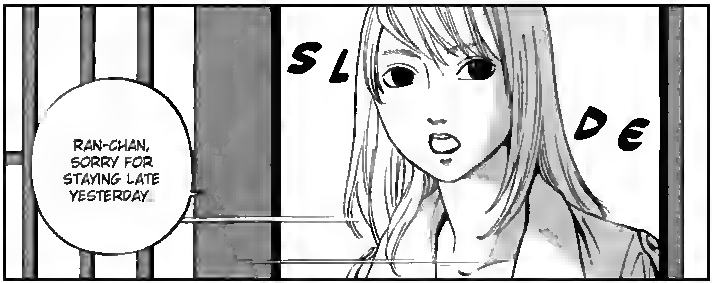
I THOUGHT I LEFT MY LIGHTER HERE
DID YOU FIND IT? SORRY I CAME WHEN YOU'RE NOT OPEN YET.
WHAT IS IT,
YANAGI-HARA-SAN?
OH? REALLY!?
WHEN I WAS CLEANING UP, I DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING.
AH, GAI-KUN, THANK YOU FOR YESTERDAY.
IS IT OKAY?
MAY I SERVE YOU SOME BEER?
THEN, SURE.
REFRESHED
SO HE CAME TO SNIFF AROUND
Yes
Yes
YOU GUYS ARE PRETTY CLOSE.
YOU MUST HANG OUT OFTEN WITH HOUKIGI-SAN

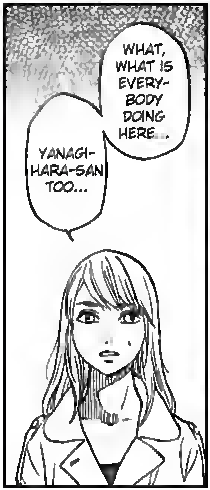
HOW ABOUT...
AH, SHE MENTIONED THAT YESTERDAY...
GAI IS HER FORMER BROTHER-IN-LAW
AH, SO THAT'S HOW IT IS...
SHIO-SAN IS MY SENPAI FROM HIGH SCHOOL CLUB ACTIVITES!
As for me...
SLIDE
EVERYBODY WAS CLOSE AT MY SCHOOL BACK THEN...
GOOD THING TOO

RAN-SAN, I'M SO HUNGRY! MAKE ME SOMETHING!!
AH, GAI! WILL YOU BE STAYING AT SHIO-SAN'S TODAY? I GOTTA BE UP EARLY TOMORROW...
YANAGI-HARA-SAN...
?
THIS GUY USED TO WORK HERE
WHAT IS IT RINDA? YOU'RE GONNA STAY AT OSHIO-SAN'S PLACE AGAIN?

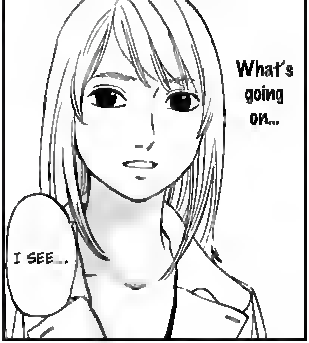
YOU KNOW, OSHIO-SAN
Who...
Oshio-san?
Wink
Wink
.....
HA HA HA
AH, EHH. !!
YANAGIHARA-SAN, A FRIEND OF SHIO-SAN
WHO? IS THIS GUY..
AH, BUT I WONDER IF THAT'S OKAY WITH OSHIO-SAN!?
THAT'S RIGHT!

HELLO,
MY NAME'S
RINDA...


SL
DE
RAN-CHAN, SORRY FOR STAYING LATE YESTERDAY...

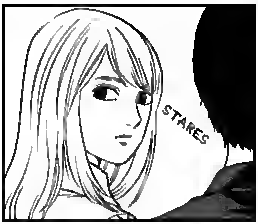

WHAT, WHAT IS EVERY-BODY DOING HERE...
YANAGI-HARA-SAN TOO...

SHIO-SAN...
AHH
EHH


What's going on...
I SEE...

WE WERE TALKING ABOUT YESTERDAY

BRINGING YOU SOME SWEETS
NO, I'M JUST...
SHIO-SAN, ARE YOU DINING HERE TODAY?

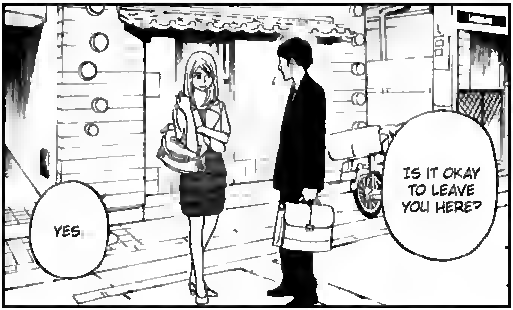

STARES

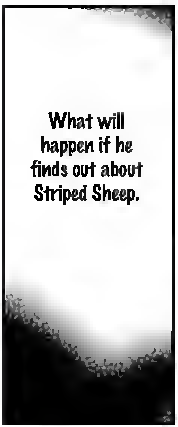
S-L-I-D-E
SHUT...

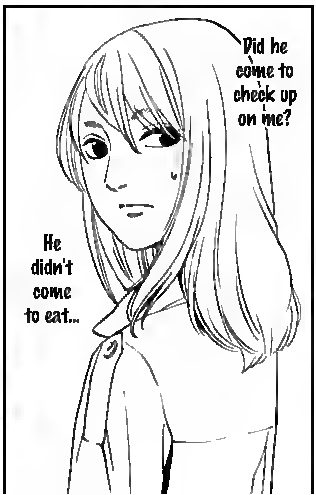
AH
LET ME SEND YOU OFF!

W-H
E-W
WHAT WAS THAT JUST NOW!

I'LL TEXT YOU LATER, THEN


YES
IS IT OKAY TO LEAVE YOU HERE?

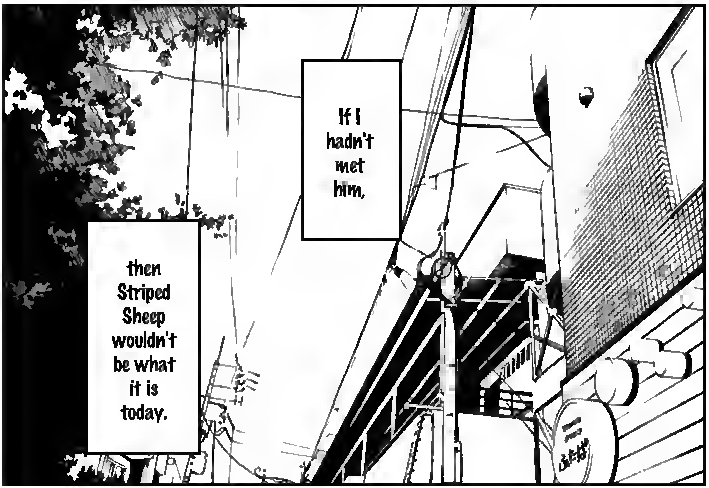

What will happen if he finds out about Striped Sheep.


Did he come to check up on me?
He didn't come to eat...

Yanagi-hara-san...
MAYBE HE WANTED TO EAT SOME-WHERE ELSE

Just like Ran-chan.
WE HANDLED IT WELL, SO DON'T WORRY
RAN
I've made that choice.

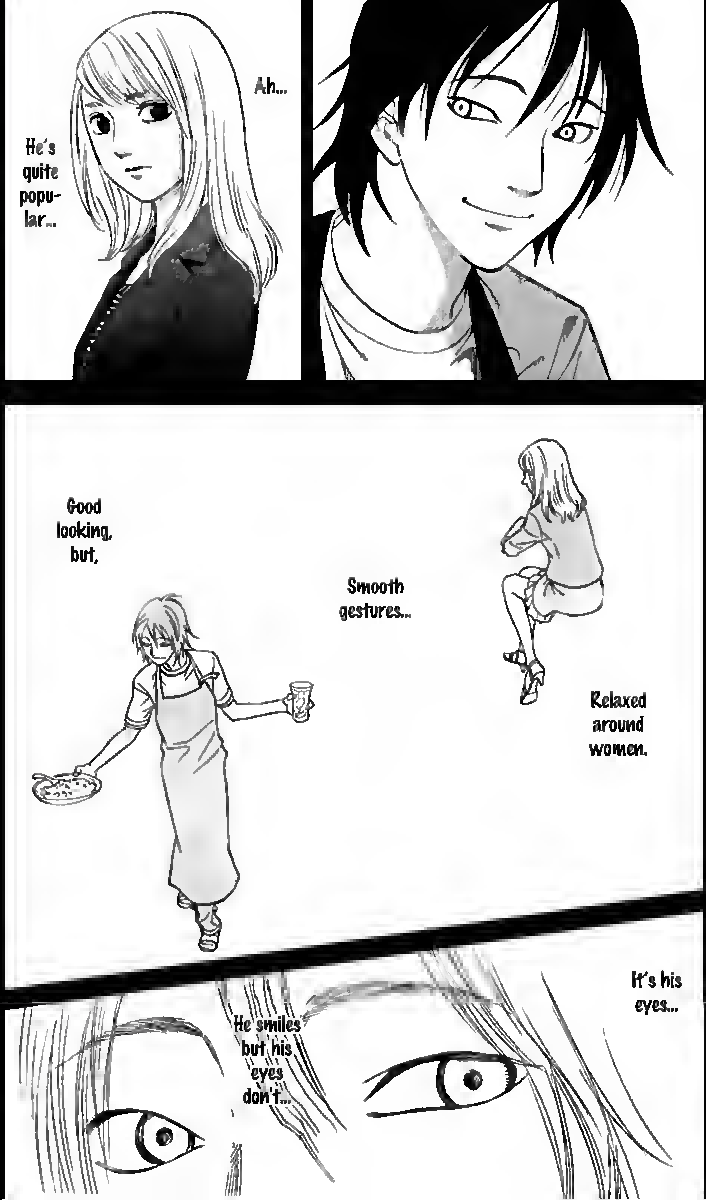
I was right to recruit him into Striped Sheep.


If I hadn't met him,
then Striped Sheep wouldn't be what it is today.

was a good idea...
The guy-for-rent business...
I realized that thanks to Gai-kun...
HE TOOK INTEREST IN IT
AND EVEN INTRODUCED HIS FRIEND RINDA-KUN
But with that alone it wouldn't have gone so well...
What we still need...
HAAA

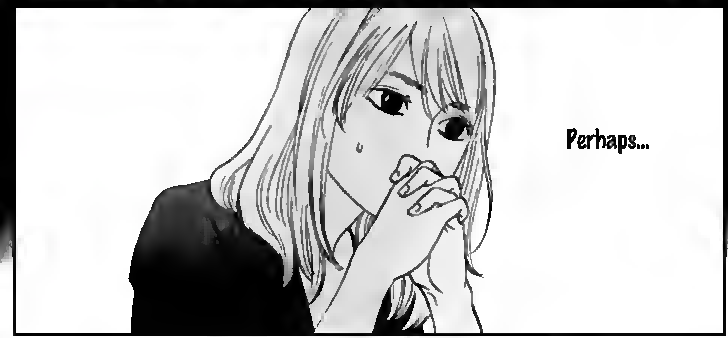
HA
HA
HA
HA
Until he got into a huge fight with the shop owner...
I WENT TO THAT PUB... SEVERAL TIMES WITH HIBIKI-SAN...
Why are there... so many young women in this pub...
"YA MUSUME"
HAHAHA
NO WAY!
Eh?
Eh...
What now...
Well...
Then...
ARE YOU ALONE? PLEASE SIT AT THE COUNTER IN THE BACK.

R-A-N-C-H-A-N
YES, YES.
RAN-CHAN, OVER HERE.
COMING...
HEY, LET'S CLOSE EARLY AND GO TO KARAOKE?
GOOD IDEA, LET'S GO!
THEN I'LL LEAVE THE SHOP TO MAYU-CHAN!
HANGING OUT LATE IS NOT GOOD FOR YOUR SKIN
HEY, DON'T DODGE THE QUESTION.
NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.
SORRY FOR ALL THE COMMOTION
PLEASE ENJOY.

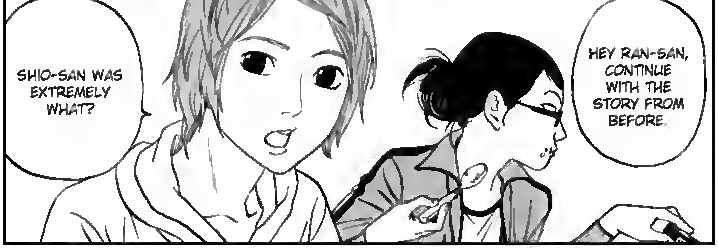

He's quite popular...
Ah...
Good looking, but,
Smooth gestures...
Relaxed around women.
He smiles but his eyes don't...
It's his eyes...

And also the loneliness.
People are attracted to that unreliability...
Ah...
AH, NO...
READY TO ORDER?

?

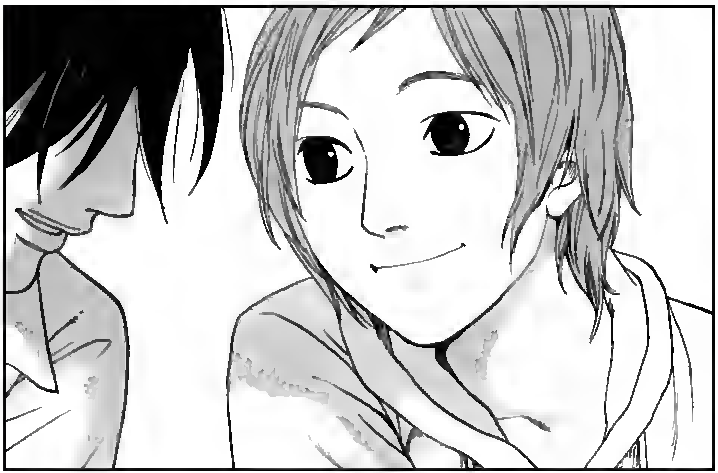

Perhaps...

That day...
I forcefully invited him home...
The one thing I remembered...
It felt extremely great.

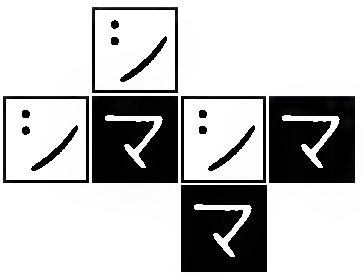

SHIO-SAN WAS EXTREMELY WHAT?
HEY RAN-SAN, CONTINUE WITH THE STORY FROM BEFORE.

WHEN SHIO-SAN SAID TO ME, "WILL YOU COME WITH ME?"

HM?
UM.

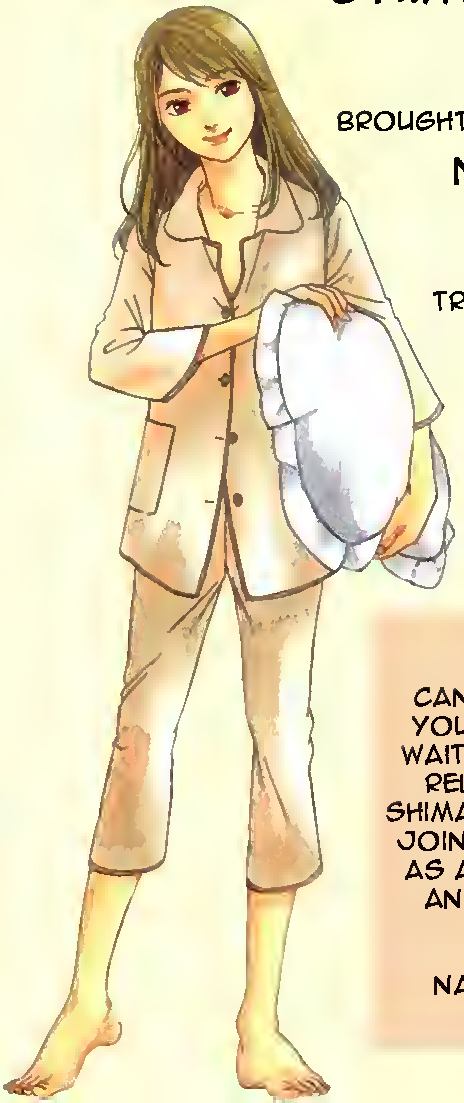


She was extremely cute——



SHIMA SHIMA

YAMAZAKI SAYAKA



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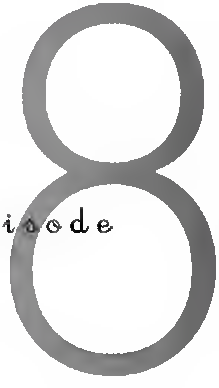
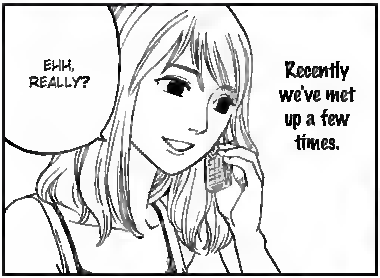
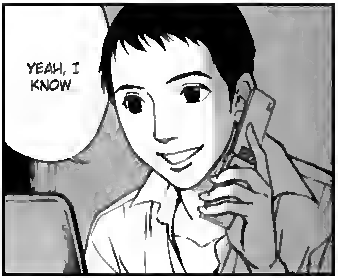
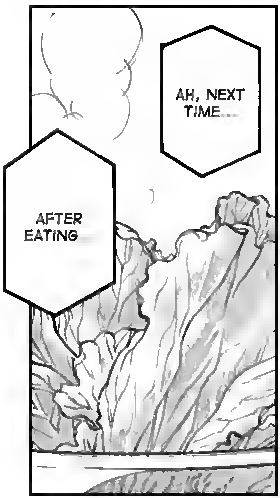
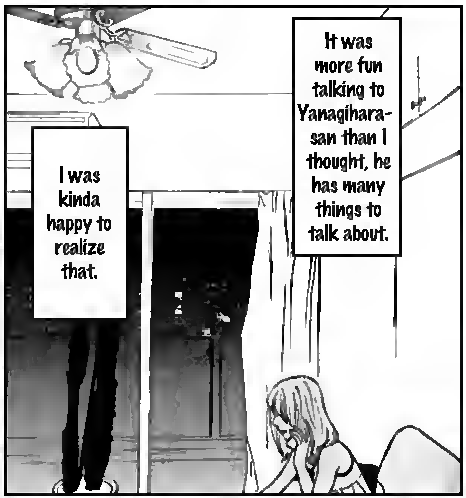
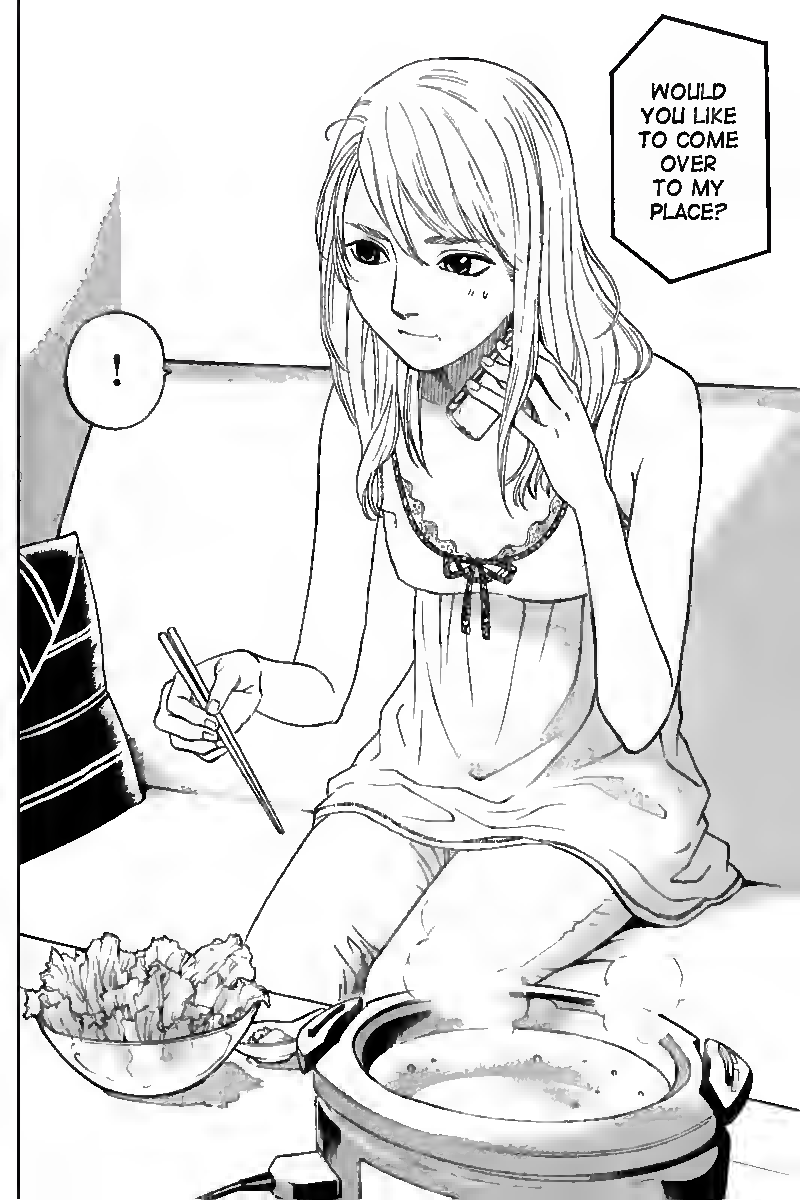


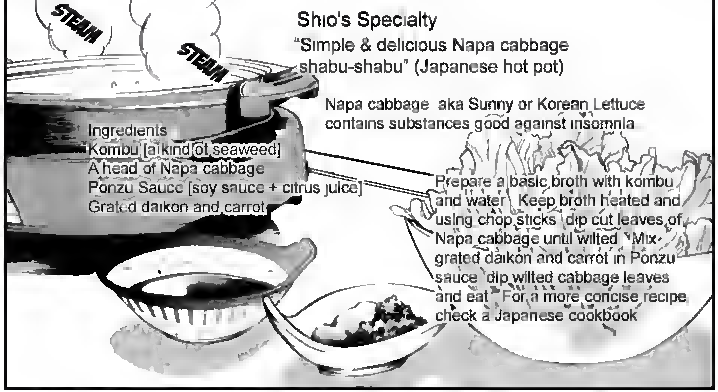

EHH, REALLY?
Recently we've met up a few times.

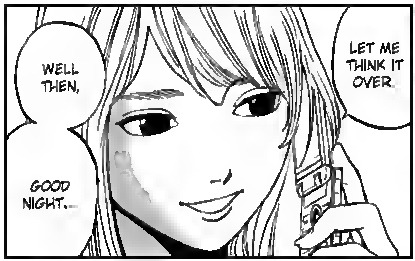

YEAH, I KNOW

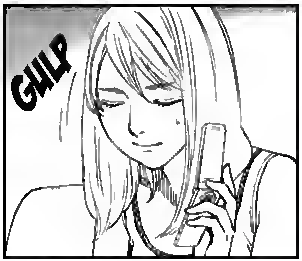

AH, NEXT TIME...
AFTER EATING


I was kinda happy to realize that.
It was more fun talking to Yanagihara-san than I thought, he has many things to talk about.

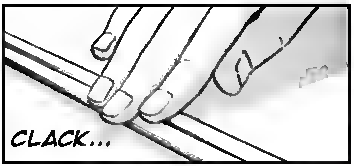

WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME OVER TO MY PLACE?
!

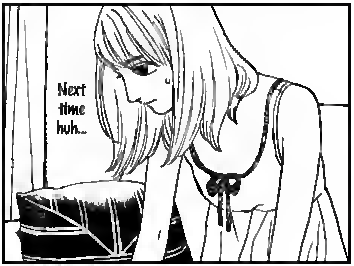

STEAM
STEAM
Shio's Specialty
"Simple & delicious Napa cabbage shabu-shabu" (Japanese hot pot)
Napa cabbage aka Sunny or Korean Lettuce contains substances good against insomnia
Ingredients
Kombu [a kind of seaweed]
A head of Napa cabbage
Ponzu Sauce [soy sauce + citrus juice]
Grated daikon and carrot
Prepare a basic broth with kombu and water. Keep broth heated and using chop sticks dip cut leaves of Napa cabbage until wilted. Mix grated daikon and carrot in Ponzu sauce, dip wilted cabbage leaves and eat. For a more concise recipe check a Japanese cookbook

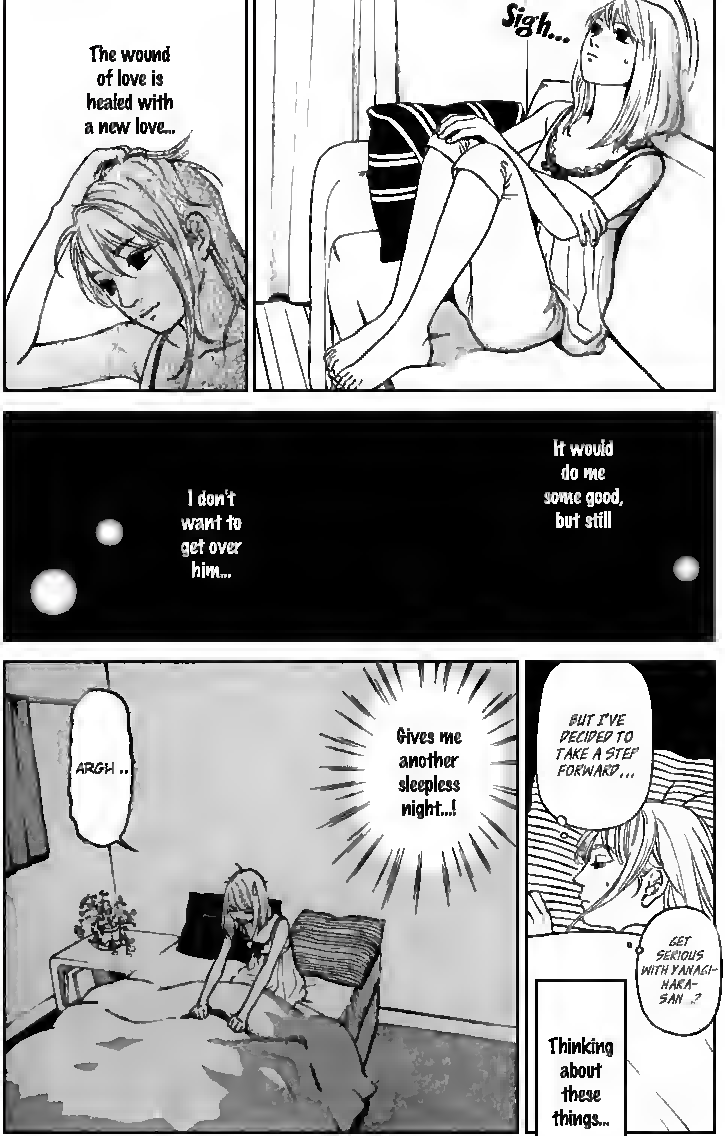

WELL THEN,
GOOD NIGHT...
LET ME THINK IT OVER


GULP

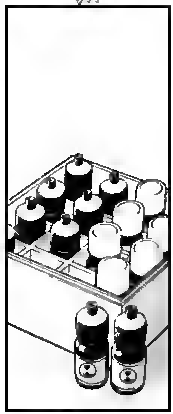
So finally I'm dating someone other than Hibiki-san...?

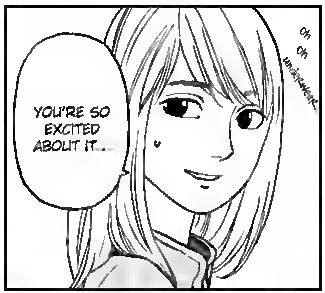

CLACK...


Next time huh...

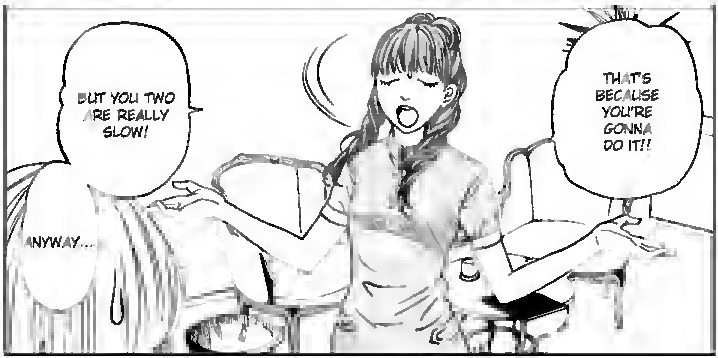

The wound of love is healed with a new love...
Sigh...
It would do me some good, but still
I don't want to get over him...
ARGH..
Gives me another sleepless night...!
BUT I'VE DECIDED TO TAKE A STEP FORWARD...
GET SERIOUS WITH YANAGIHARA-SAN..?
Thinking about these things...

A DATE?
THEN I'LL HELP!!




YOU'RE SO EXCITED ABOUT IT...
OH OH UNDERWEAR!

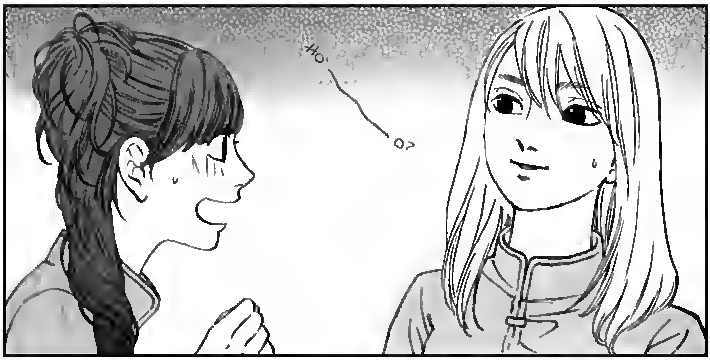
CHOOSING YOUR UNDER-WEAR IS IMPOR-TANT!!
THAT'S WHY I'LL HELP YOU!!
HA?

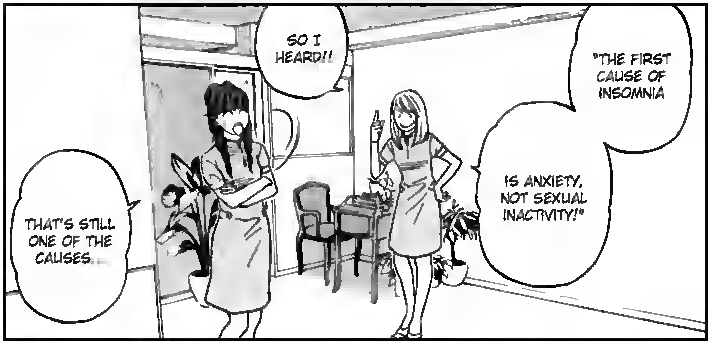

BUT YOU TWO ARE REALLY SLOW!
ANYWAY...
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE GONNA DO IT!!

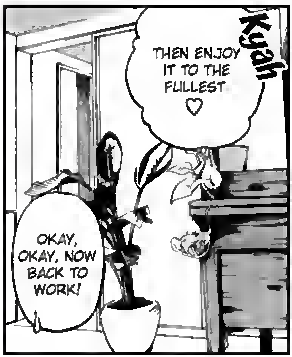
PHYSICAL COMPATIBILITY
IS VERY IMPORTANT!!
THAT'S THE FIRST THING IN A RELATIONSHIP!!

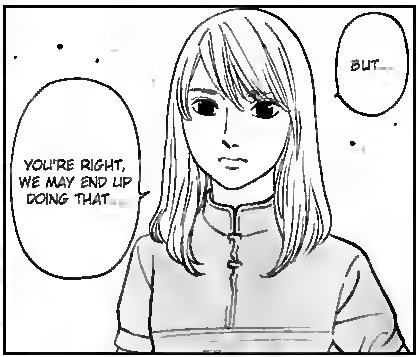
I DON'T KNOW... IF WE'RE GONNA DO IT...
C'MON
YOU'RE 28 AND HE'S 32 AFTER ALL...
BY THE WAY, BOSS...

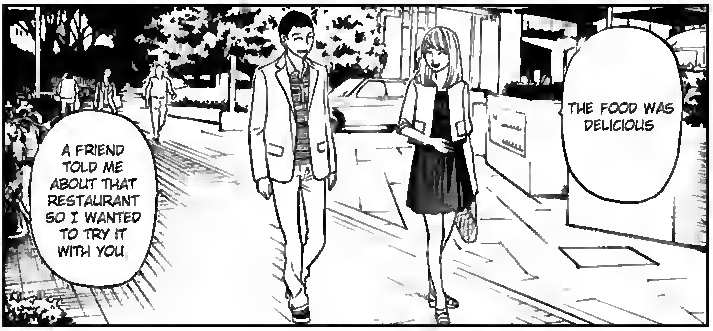
YOU'RE SUFFERING FROM LACK OF SLEEP, AREN'T YOU.
DETERMINED
IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT HAVING SEX!!

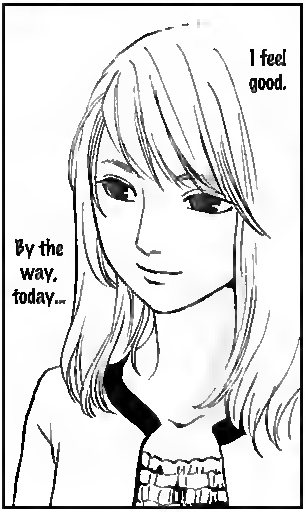

Ho
o?


SO I HEARD!!
"THE FIRST CAUSE OF INSOMNIA
IS ANXIETY, NOT SEXUAL INACTIVITY!"
THAT'S STILL ONE OF THE CAUSES...

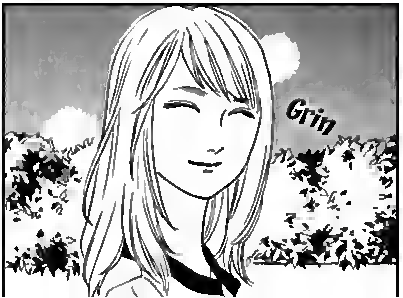

Kyah
THEN ENJOY IT TO THE FULLEST ♡
OKAY, OKAY, NOW BACK TO WORK!

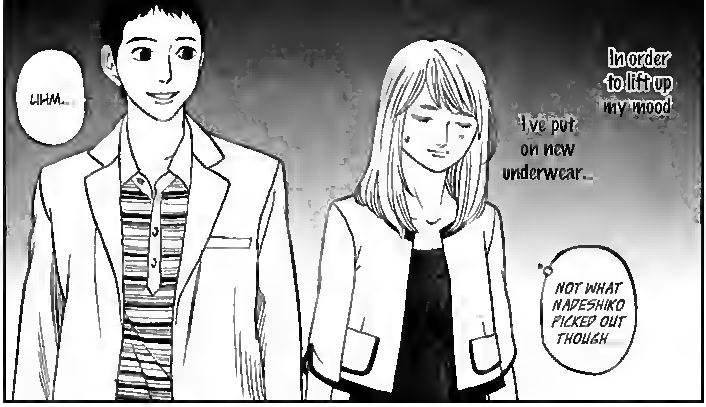

BUT...
YOU'RE RIGHT, WE MAY END UP DOING THAT...

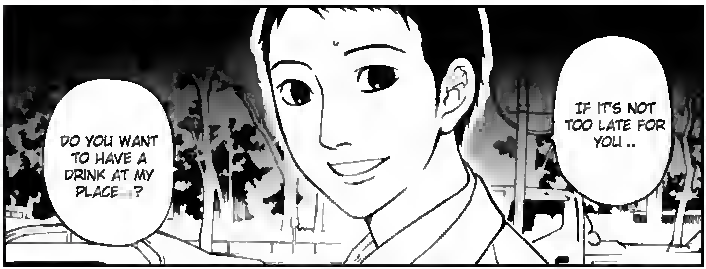

A FRIEND TOLD ME ABOUT THAT RESTAURANT SO I WANTED TO TRY IT WITH YOU.
THE FOOD WAS DELICIOUS


I feel good.
By the way, today...

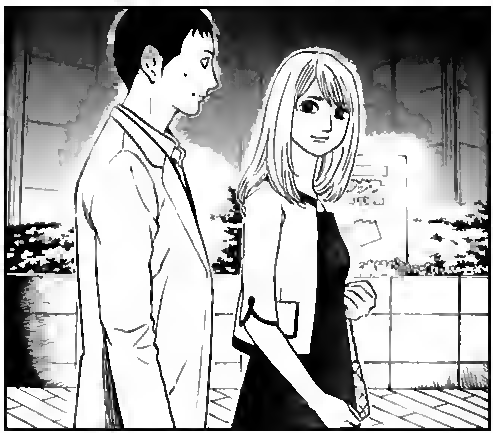
I'LL GO GET THE TICKETS FOR THE PLAY WE TALKED ABOUT EARLIER
Smile


Grin

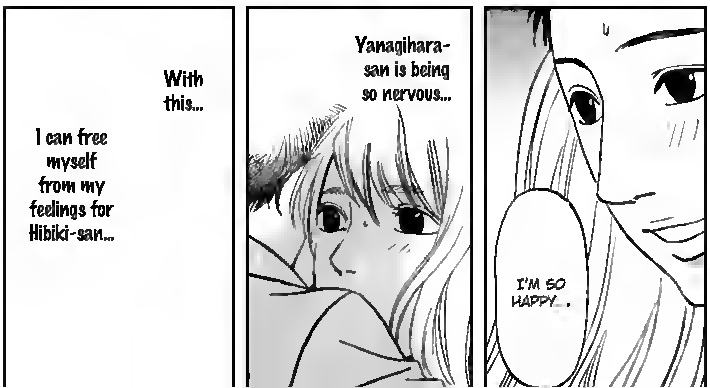

UHM...
In order to lift up my mood
I've put on new underwear...
NOT WHAT NADESHIKO PICKED OUT THOUGH


DO YOU WANT TO HAVE A DRINK AT MY PLACE...?
IF IT'S NOT TOO LATE FOR YOU..

SOUNDS GOOD



Slam
NICE TO MEET YOU...
IT'S GAI FROM STRIPED SHEEP.
Click
I'M COMING IN. ☆GAI.☆
Th-
ud...
EH?

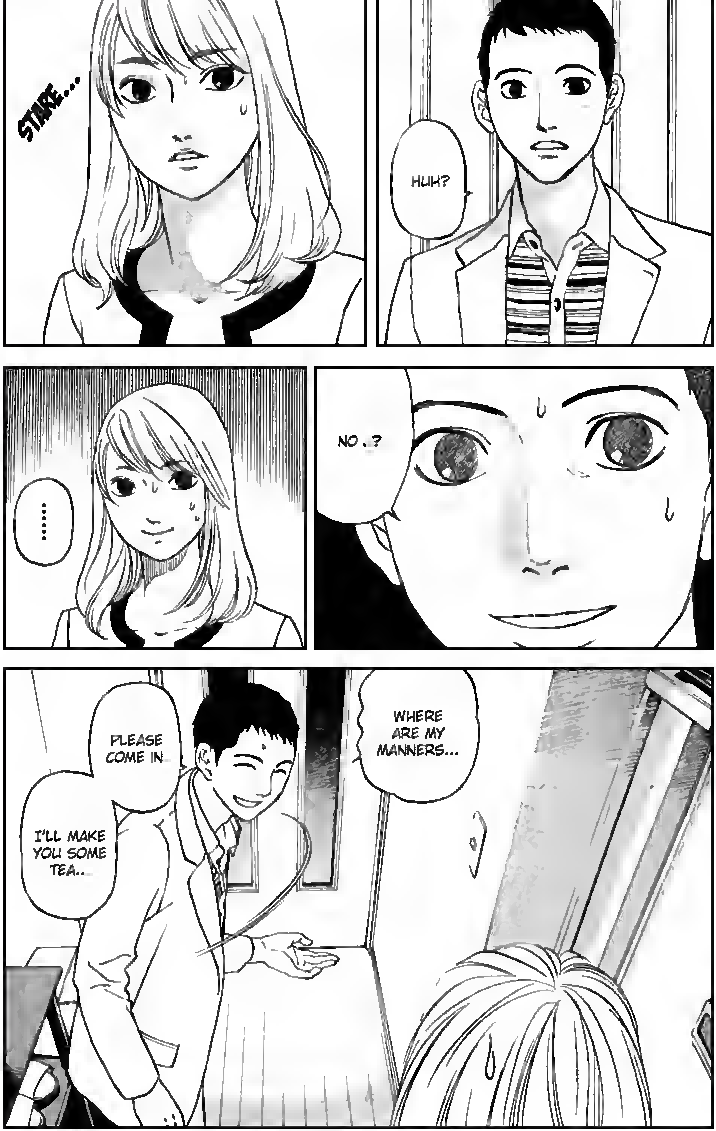

With this...
I can free myself from my feelings for Hibiki-san...
Yanagihara-san is being so nervous...
I'M SO HAPPY...

.....

Hmm...?

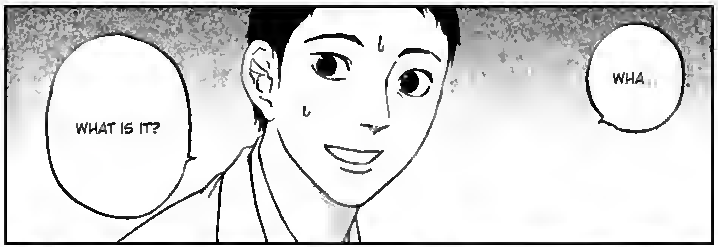
This feeling...
Not this chest...!
is not right...
It's not it...!
WE PROBABLY WON'T DO THAT NEITHER
I won't sleep on this chest...
BA-THUMP
BA-THUMP
BA-THUMP
I'M GOING HOME,
SINCE I WON'T BE STAYING OR DOING ANY-THING WITH HIM
FOR SURE .!
I must end this quickly...!
OKAY

SQUEE
E
E
ZE
...
But I've come all this way...
What should I do...
AH
WAIT...
GRAB...
YANAGIHARA-SAN... WHEN YOU HELD ME JUST NOW... DID YOU FEEL ANYTHING WRONG...?
EXCUSE ME...
Maybe he's feeling the same way too...


STARE...
HUH?
.....
NO.?
PLEASE COME IN
I'LL MAKE YOU SOME TEA..
WHERE ARE MY MANNERS...

I'M SORRY!

NO..
UHM..
IN FACT...


WHA..
WHAT IS IT?

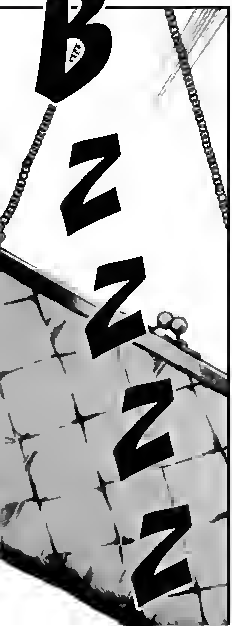
NO...
NOT AT ALL...

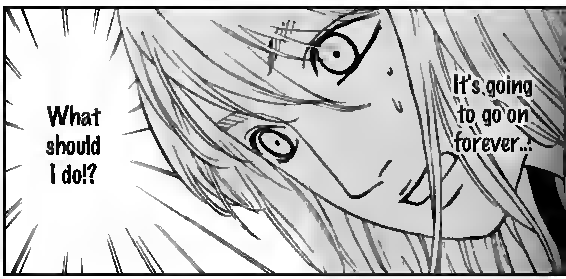
DID I DO SOMETHING WRONG?

But... I can't explain it...
I probably am...

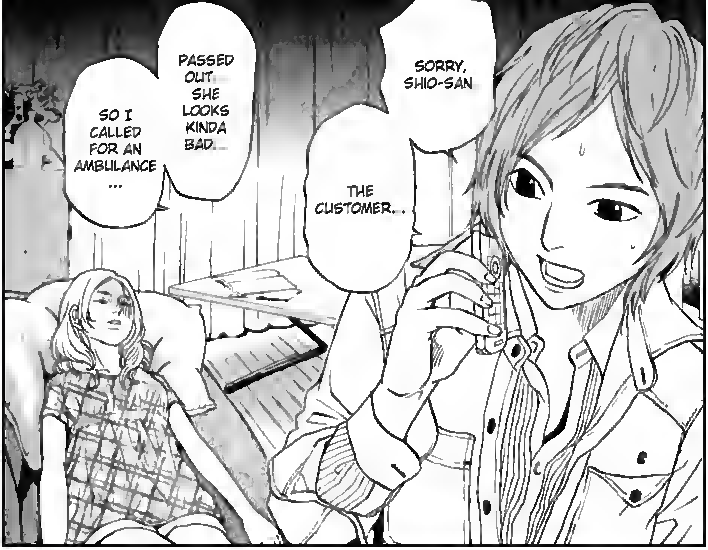
BUT HOUKIGI-SAN, YOU'RE ACTING STRANGE...

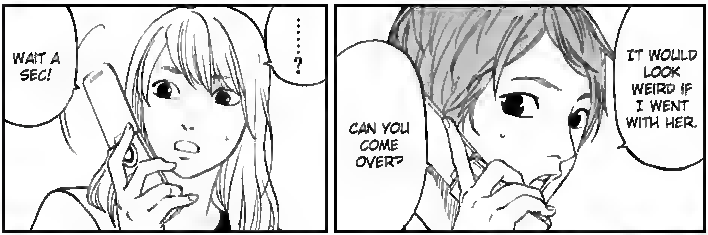
NO, UHM ..
ANYWAY, PLEASE COME IN...
IS SOMETHING BOTHERING YOU!?
NO...


BZZZZ

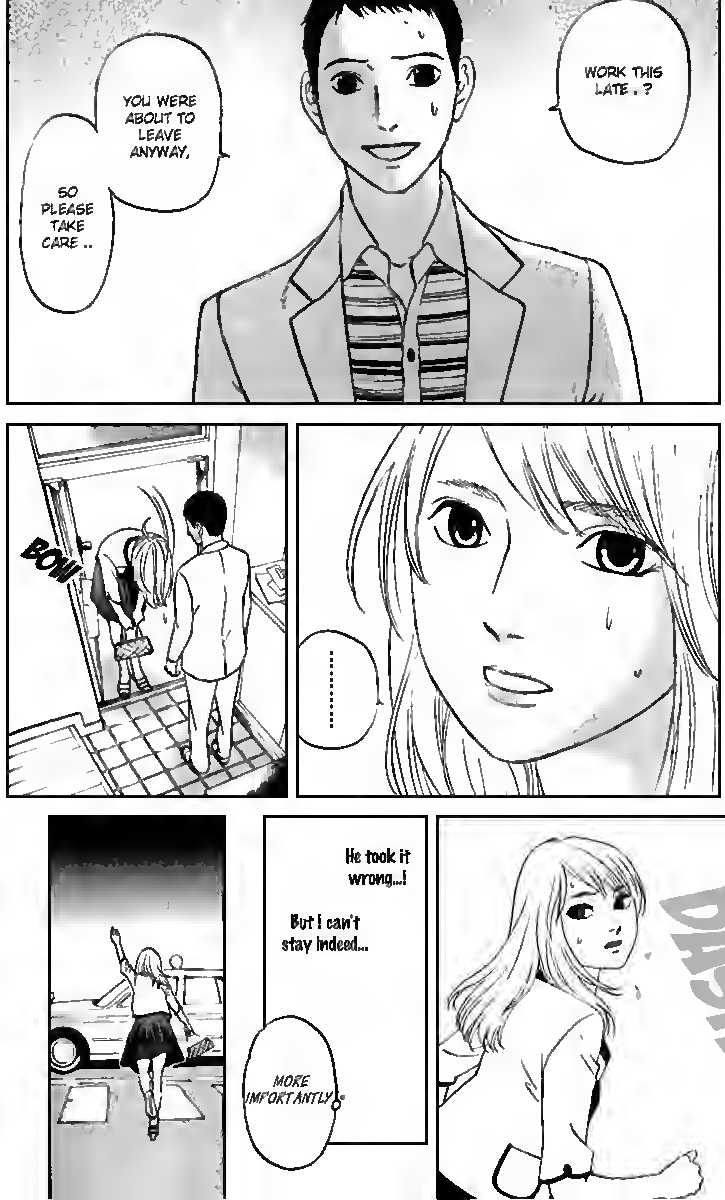

What should I do!?
It's going to go on forever...

EX... EXCUSE ME...
!
Bzz
Bzz
DASH
HELLO?
GAI-KUN
GAI-KUN?
He must be at work...
WHO'S THAT?
WHAT'S WRONG?
EH?

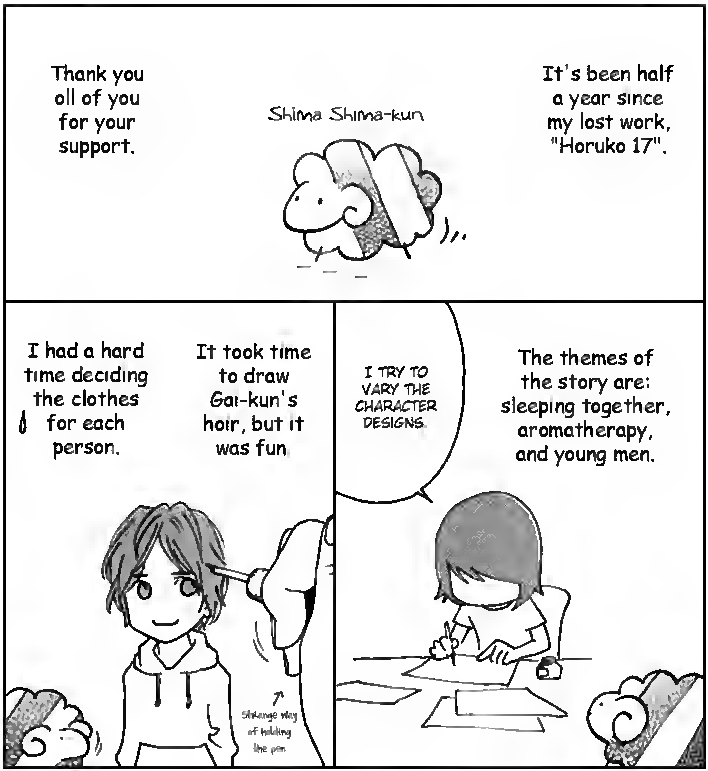

SORRY, SHIO-SAN
THE CUSTOMER...
PASSED OUT... SHE LOOKS KINDA BAD...
SO I CALLED FOR AN AMBULANCE ...

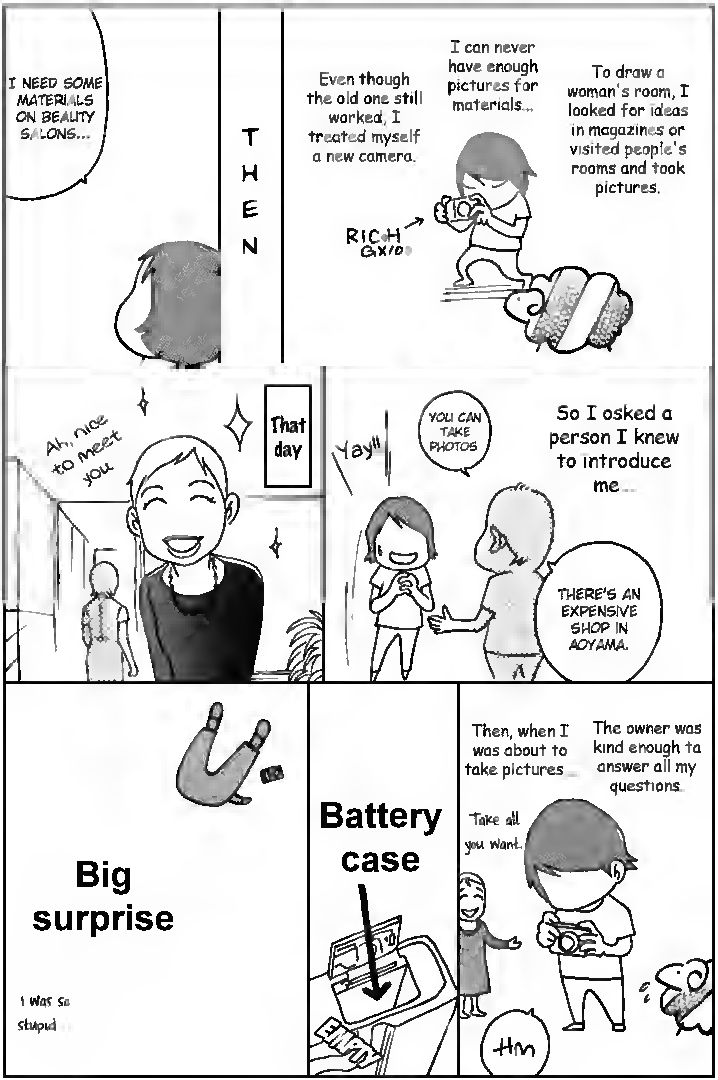

WAIT A SEC!
.....?
CAN YOU COME OVER?
IT WOULD LOOK WEIRD IF I WENT WITH HER.

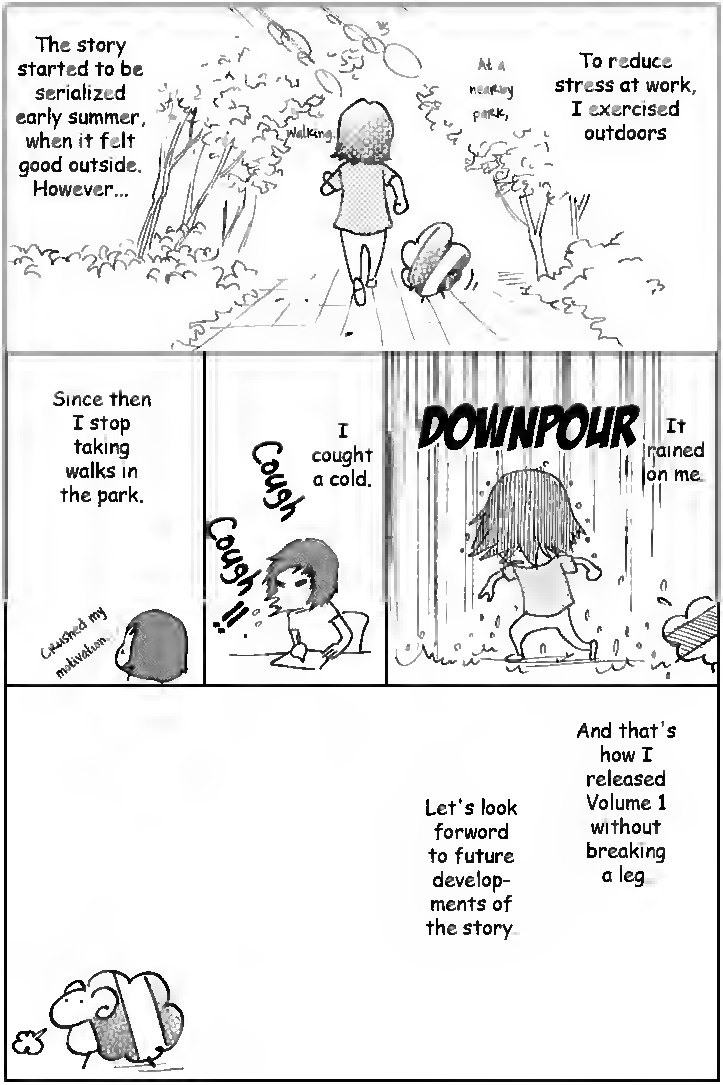
SORRY, I HAVE AN EMERGENCY AT WORK.
I REALLY HAVE TO GO...
YANAGI-HARA-SAN!


WORK THIS LATE . ?
YOU WERE ABOUT TO LEAVE ANYWAY,
SO PLEASE TAKE CARE ..
BOW
.....
He took it wrong...!
But I can't stay indeed...
MORE IMPORTANTLY
DASH

MEET SHIMA SHIMA-KUN

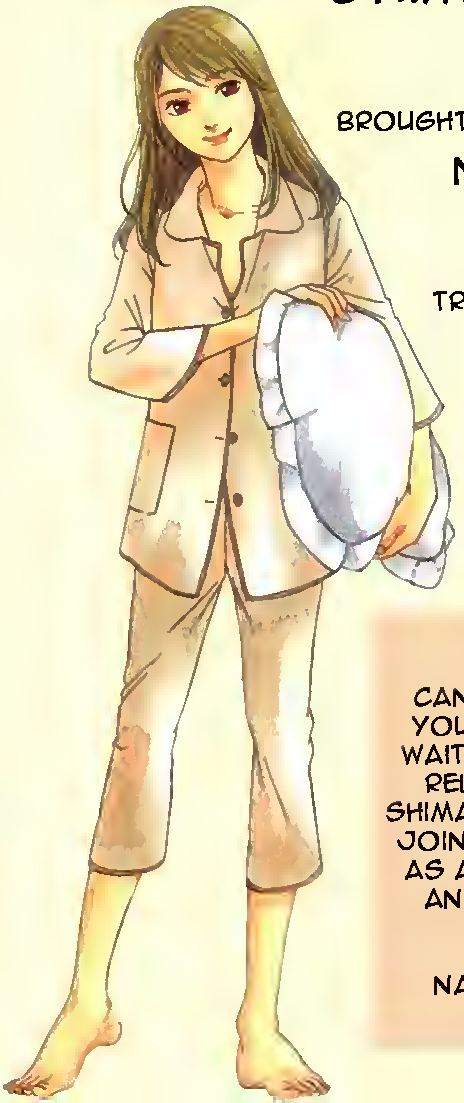

Thank you all of you for your support.
Shima Shima-kun
It's been half a year since my last work, "Horuko 17".
I had a hard time deciding the clothes for each person.
It took time to draw Gai-kun's hair, but it was fun.
I TRY TO VARY THE CHARACTER DESIGNS.
The themes of the story are: sleeping together, aromatherapy, and young men.
strange way of holding the pen


I NEED SOME MATERIALS ON BEAUTY SALONS...
THEN
Even though the old one still worked, I treated myself a new camera.
I can never have enough pictures for materials...
To draw a woman's room, I looked for ideas in magazines or visited people's rooms and took pictures.
RICOH GX/D
That day
Ah, nice to meet you
Yay!!
YOU CAN TAKE PHOTOS
So I osked a person I knew to introduce me...
THERE'S AN EXPENSIVE SHOP IN AOYAMA.
Big surprise
I was so stupid...
Battery case
I left the battery at home...
Then, when I was about to take pictures...
The owner was kind enough to answer all my questions.
Take all you want.
Hm


The story started to be serialized early summer, when it felt good outside. However...
Walking
At a nearby park,
To reduce stress at work, I exercised outdoors
Since then I stop taking walks in the park.
Caused my motivation...
Cough
Cough !!
I cought a cold.
DOWNPOUR
It rained on me.
Let's look forword to future develop-ments of the story
And that's how I released Volume 1 without breaking a leg

SHIMA SHIMA

YAMAZAKI SAYAKA



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LONGVAN

EDITOR:

SHRUBBERY

CAN'T SLEEP OR ARE YOU FALLING ASLEEP WAITING FOR THE NEXT RELEASE OF SHIMA SHIMA? THEN CONSIDER JOINING NATSU SCANS AS AN EDITOR (CLEAN AND/OR TYPESET)!

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